

Jordan Times

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Bomb thrown at bus near Balata

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A fire bomb was thrown at a parked bus near a Palestinian refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, causing little damage and no injuries, the Israeli military spokesman said Friday. The bus, which is used to transport Arabs to work in the area, was parked near a store outside the Balata camp about 50 kilometres north of Jerusalem when a man tossed a molotov cocktail into the bus's cab Thursday night, the spokesman's office said. An investigation is being conducted at the Balata camp, where about 11,500 Palestinians live, the office said. Meanwhile, an International Red Cross (ICRC) senior official, in a rare public statement, criticised the Israeli authorities for deporting three Palestinians. Jean Jacques Fressard, the deputy director of the Red Cross' Israel delegation, said Wednesday's deportations were "completely prohibited" by article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Jerusalem Post newspaper reported.

Italian coalition faces crisis

ROME (R) — The Italian government lost a vote on its budget bill on Friday for the second time in two days and political sources said it appeared to be heading for a crisis. An article of the budget bill, authorising defence spending during 1986, was rejected by 16 votes in the lower house of parliament. On Thursday the house also rejected a clause authorising spending on education. The sources said that in both cases 50 or more members of the government parties had either secretly voted against or not attended the debate — a sign of the increasing strain within the coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats, Republicans and Liberals. The sources said that growing tension within the coalition was coming to a head and the most likely outcome was a "managed crisis" in which the government would fall after prior agreement that it would be reconstituted with the same parties but major ministerial changes.

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Sudanese minister arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudanese Minister of Agriculture Siddiqi Abdeen arrived in Amman on Friday on a several day official visit to Jordan during which he will take part in a two-day conference on food security which will be held on Saturday at the Arab Thought Forum.

Klibi in Gabon

LIBREVILLE (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said resumption of diplomatic links with Israel by some black African nations stemmed from an erroneous analysis of the situation in the Middle East. He told reporters on arrival here Thursday night in Gabon, as President Omar Bongo: "The situation has not changed." Most black African states broke with Israel after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. Mr. Klibi had been asked for his views on Ivory Coast's decision last December to restore full ties with the Jewish state, the third black African state to do so after Zaire and Liberia.

Spain names envoy to Israel

MADRID (AP) — The government on Friday named Pedro Lopez Aguirre as its current envoy in Greece, as Spain's first ambassador to Israel. Following the weekly cabinet meeting, government spokesman Javier Solana said Israel had agreed to the nomination. At the same time, the government approved the nomination of Samuel Hadas as Israel's ambassador in Madrid. Spain established formal diplomatic relations with Israel Jan. 17.

Shevardnadze receives message from Mubarak

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze met on Friday with Egyptian Ambassador Salaheddin Bassalouny, who delivered a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the official news agency TASS said. TASS gave no details of what was said, but a verbal message from Mr. Mubarak to the Soviet leadership. The news agency said the Egyptian requested Friday's meeting, which it said was held in a businesslike atmosphere. The two were said to have discussed Middle East affairs, bilateral relations and the international situation as a whole.

Oil producers plan new mission

CAIRO (AP) — Oil ministers of Venezuela, Mexico and Egypt announced on Friday a globe-trotting mission by the Latin American states to urge cooperation by OPEC and non-OPEC producers to bring order to the world's chaotic oil market. Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, current chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, his Mexican counterpart Francisco Labastida Osorio and Egypt's oil minister, Abdul Hady Kandil, emerged from a meeting of almost two hours to announce the Latin unity mission (See related story on page 7).

U.S. vetoes resolution denouncing Israel for hijacking Libyan plane

Qadhafi orders air force to intercept Israeli airliners within range of Libyans

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES has vetoed a resolution in the U.N. Security Council to condemn Israel for hijacking and detaining for five hours a Libyan plane last week and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Friday ordered the Libyan air force to intercept any Israeli airliner within range over the Mediterranean.

Israel, which was seeking to quell a dissent within the government over Tuesday's hijacking, said it was rerouting all incoming and outgoing flights away from Syrian and Libyan airspace.

Reacting to the U.S. veto at the Security Council, Syria said the American action "has not surprised anyone."

"The U.S. veto backing Israeli terrorism is not the first and will not be the last to prove U.S. enmity to the Arabs," said Damascus Radio, noting that it was the third U.S. veto this year of resolutions condemning Israel.

It was Syria which brought a complaint before the council after Israeli warplanes pounced on the

Libyan executive jet, carrying Syrian and Lebanese politicians from Tripoli to Damascus, and forced it land at an Israeli airstrip.

"The U.S. veto to prevent condemnation of Israeli terrorism and U.S. collusion with Israeli aggression and expansionism has not surprised anyone," Damascus Radio said on Friday.

"This scandalous stance proves that the Israeli piracy is linked to the U.S. escalation of tension in the region and its feverish attempts politically and militarily to subjugate the Arab Nation," it said.

Speaking before the vote late Thursday at the Security Council, the American delegate, Vernon Walters, said the U.S. deplored the Israeli seizure and detention of

(Continued on page 3)

World continues condemnation of Israeli piracy, page 2

Lebanese chief of staff calls on army to stay out of conflict

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese army's chief of staff, Major-General Mahmoud Tawq Abu Dirgham, on Friday called on the divided military to pull out of positions on sectarian battlefronts in and around Beirut to avert "imminent disaster."

"We call on our brothers-in-arms, headed by our army commander, on members of the military council and on army personnel to work together in order to neutralise the army and to prevent forcing it into political conflicts," Gen. Abu Dirgham, a Druze, told a news conference in west Beirut.

The chief of staff, reading from a statement, called on units in the Christian heartland in action against Syrian-backed leftist militias "to withdraw from internal battle fronts for the good of everyone."

The army commander, General Michel Aoun, a Maronite Catholic, has been trying to keep the army neutral as the Syrian-backed forces seek to force President Amin Gemayel, also a Maronite, to resign. Mr. Gemayel refuses.

The mainly Christian units are

the 5th, 6th, 9th and airborne brigades, comprising some 10,000 men with U.S.-supplied M-48 tanks. The 5th is based in the strategic mountain town of Souq Al Gharb, 14 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

The town, ringed by gunners of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), commands the roads leading to President Gemayel's palace in Baabda, eight kilometres east of the capital.

The withdrawal of those four brigades would strip Mr. Gemayel of his main military force at a time when he is under mounting political pressure to step down.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri have both warned in recent days that they were ready to "use the military option" to unseat Mr. Gemayel if political efforts failed.

Mr. Gemayel, 44, told reporters on Thursday at his hilltop palace that he will not step down until his six-year term expires in September, 1988.

Gen. Abu Dirgham made his appeal at the news conference in the Ministry of Tourism in west

Beirut as rival militia snipers battled with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons along the nearby green line.

Police said at least four civilians were wounded in the exchange. The fighting forced the army to close all the green line crossings linking the mainly Christian east side and the predominantly Muslim west.

Gen. Abu Dirgham noted: "We are sure that our appeal aims at saving the country and its civilians from an imminent disaster and minimising the choking crisis that is about to demolish our lives, hopes and destiny."

The news conference was held after Gen. Abu Dirgham had met with senior army officers behind closed doors in the ministry, sealed off by troops in the street.

Reuters adds: Closure of the Beirut crossings also prevented the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors attending a meeting with Mr. Gemayel of representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Attas denies any East bloc role in Aden coup

KUWAIT (AP) — Heider Abu Bakr Al Attas, who was appointed interim president by the new leadership in South Yemen, was reported on Friday as denying any involvement by the Soviet Union or any Warsaw Pact member country in the recent bloody events in the country.

In his first interview with an Arab newspaper since he came to power two weeks ago, Mr. Attas also told Kuwait's daily Al Anba'a "investigations so far did not prove the involvement of any other foreign power, whether Arab or non-Arab, and when such evidence is available we will make it public."

Mr. Attas indicated in the interview that the new government believed there had been foreign involvement on the side of the ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammed.

"The planning and implementation of Ali Nasser's coup were beyond his local capabilities," Mr. Attas said. The new leaders have maintained that they took control in fighting which erupted when Mr. Mohammed tried to physically liquidate his rivals within the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

The statement of Mr. Attas contrasted with those by a prominent member of the new regime, Salem Saleh Mohammed who on Tuesday accused the United States of financing Mr. Mohammed and instigating the civil war.

"We have information that



Heider Abu Bakr Al Attas

huge amounts of money came from the Americans," Mr. Saleh Mohammed told a press conference. He also said the new regime had "information that America is supporting Ali Nasser Mohammed and his clique to carry out subversive activities" against South Yemen.

Mr. Attas described as "Western media propaganda" the reports about the intervention of Soviet forces in support of the rebels in the course of the 12-day fighting that led them to power in Aden (U.S., suggests Soviet, Cuban role in coup, page 2).

Mr. Attas described as "groundless" reports which said that the former president was massing forces to regain control of the country. "Ali Nasser left South Yemen once and for all, a few hours after he carried out his bloody coup on Jan. 13."

Botha rebukes foreign minister

CAPE TOWN (R) — President P.W. Botha publicly rebuked his foreign minister on Friday for saying a black might one day be president of South Africa.

He also partially lifted a state of emergency imposed on some areas of the country last year to curb anti-apartheid protests, while white opposition leader Frederik van Zyl Slabbert announced his resignation, expressing frustration with government policies.

Mr. Botha's reprimand to Foreign Minister Pik Botha after a surprise cabinet meeting Friday morning came amid signs of a widening rift between reformists and hard-line white supremacists.

Pik Botha told foreign correspondents on Thursday at a briefing that one day a black might be president of South Africa provided the rights of whites and other minorities were protected. "Any speculation about future presidents is purely hypothetical," President Botha told the white chamber of parliament. "No member of the cabinet has any right to compromise the party in such a way."

Pik Botha's comments on Thursday were prominently reported in the local media and caused a furor among members of the government, politicians said.

Crown Prince returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home on Friday after a working visit to Switzerland and Britain during which he met with senior officials of the International Committee of Red Cross, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and a number of senior British officials.

The Crown Prince was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, Royal Court Secretary General Rajai Al Dajani, the British charge d'affaires in Amman and a number of senior officials.

In an arrival statement, Prince Hassan told Jordan Television that the next stage of a preferential agreement between Jordan and the European Community is currently being discussed. The stage derives its importance from the fact that it considers Jordan as an advanced centre for maintenance and a centre for industrial quality in various fields, such as chemical industries, communications and electronics, he said.

Prince Hassan added that there is also a dialogue between Europe and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Crown Prince expressed hope that Jordan will be the central point in this industrial and scientific investment bridge between

Jordan and the Gulf council on one side and Europe on the other, so that it can play specific roles, as defined during his talks with the British Trade Ministry and officials of the Bank of England and specialised British institutions.

Prince Hassan said that British delegations will arrive in Jordan during the next few days to follow up on this subject. The chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce will head a delegation to Jordan in April for follow up, Prince Hassan said.

Speaking about the timing of the visit, Prince Hassan said the visit coincided with the final touches to the Jordan's five-year-plan (1986-1990) which will focus on a new and qualitative work.

Duvalier flees Haiti; France provides temporary asylum

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — President Jean-Claude Duvalier fled Haiti on Friday turning over power to a military-civilian panel and France said it would allow the toppled leader to stay in its territory en route to another country.

AP quoted informed sources as saying Mr. Duvalier was flying Friday to Grenoble airport and was expected to land later Friday. The sources said Mr. Duvalier, with some 20 people in his entourage, was to stay in the Grenoble region in southeast France until a country willing to grant him permanent refuge is found.

In the Haitian capital, a cheering crowd of thousands gathered at the presidential palace as word spread of Mr. Duvalier's departure, which followed months of anti-government protests in his impoverished Caribbean country.

The crowds danced, sang and screamed with joy. They lifted passing soldiers onto their shoulders, mobbed jeep-loads of troops to try to pat them on the back, and shouted "vive l'armee" (long live the army), leaving no doubt that they believed the army had persuaded Mr. Duvalier to leave.

Mr. Duvalier, his wife Michelle, their four children and a large group of relatives were spirited out of the country at 3:46 a.m. aboard a U.S. Air Force C-141 transport plane.

It marked the end of 28 years of iron-fisted rule of Haiti by the Duvalier family, first by Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, then by his son Jean-Claude, known as "Baby Doc."

In Washington, the U.S. gov-



Jean-Claude Duvalier

ernment said it had cooperated in getting Mr. Duvalier out of the country in response to requests from the Haitian president and the French government. It also said it believed Mr. Duvalier's decision to leave was the right one.

The six-member military-civilian commission which took control in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, cut all communications with the outside world shortly before Mr. Duvalier left.

The commission, calling itself the National Council of Government (Conseil National du Gouvernement), is headed by an army colonel, Henry Namphy, who is the council's president.

Duvalier's departure was not announced publicly, and most Haitians learned of it several hours later by word of mouth, mainly from foreign journalists.

The news brought carnival-like scenes to Port-au-Prince. The celebrations outside the presidential palace started with only a few

hundred people, who cheered as troops lowered Mr. Duvalier's black-and-red flag from the palace roof and replaced it with a new flag, a tri-colour red, white and blue.

A 21-gun salute was fired and the six-man governing commission walked down the palace steps to pose for photographers.

The crowd quickly swelled to thousands, chanting "a bas Macoutes" (down with the Macoutes), the much-feared "Tonton Macoutes" militia which had helped keep Mr. Duvalier and his father in power since 1957. Both men had held the title of president-for-life.

Many of the celebrants made it clear they wanted revenge against the Tonton Macoutes for years of terror tactics. No militiamen were visible in the streets Friday morning, where only a few hours before they had patrolled in force, on foot and in unmarked cars.

The crowds burst into creole songs and even a deafening and moving version of "aile lang syne" as the soldiers guarding the palace laughed and waved.

"He's gone, he's gone," the crowds chanted in creole, and "Long live Gonaves," a reference to the provincial town where the first public anti-Duvalier protests erupted last November.

Youths stood on their heads, shaking their legs in glee, while others jumped and wriggled in sheer delight as cars and pick-up trucks raced through city streets, packed with men and women waving and making V-for-victory signs.

Initial poll results indicate Marcos-Aquino seesaw

MANILA (Agencies) — Unofficial results trickling in from Friday's bitterly fought election between President Ferdinand Marcos and Corason Aquino showed them locked in a seesaw battle. But the government-run television said Mr. Marcos was heading for a landslide victory.

The election took place amid widespread reports of fraud and intimidation. The government said nine people were killed in election violence.

A military "red alert" due to run out at midnight, was extended indefinitely to deal with violence and cheating. Under the action, all 200,000 members of the military were put in the highest state of readiness.

In returns from only 10 of the

nation's 86,036 precincts, Mrs. Aquino was leading 1,056 to 866, according to the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

Minutes later, the agency reported that in five precincts in Dagupan city, 160 kilometres north of Manila, Mr. Marcos received 2,023 votes and Mrs. Aquino zero.

Results in the vice presidential race between ruling party member Arturo Tolentino and oppositionist Salvador Laurel were similar.

The figures were unofficial and came from a tiny portion of the nation's polling places.

A news reader on the state-run television's Channel 4 said: "President Marcos has taken an early commanding lead and appears to

be heading for a landslide victory with 88 to 90 per cent of the poll."

But the PNA said shortly afterwards that these figures referred only to partial returns from Leyte province in the central Philippines.

None of the several agencies trying to count the votes unofficially had an overall tally as of three hours after the 3 p.m. (0700 GMT) poll closing. A conclusive, official commission on election count was not due until Monday.

It was one of the nation's most crucial elections ever, a bitter contest between Mr. Marcos, ruler for 20 years, and Mrs. Aquino, widow of the president's main rival.

Turnout was reported heavy among the nation's 26 million voters, with many voters still lined up

Arafat leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Amman on Friday after a 30-day visit during which he led a high-level PLO delegation to talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials on Jordan-PLO joint efforts for peace in the Middle East.

The talks failed to produce a breakthrough after the PLO refused to accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 as the basis for negotiations with Israel under an international conference. The PLO turned down an American "compromise proposal" providing for the organisation's acceptance of the two resolutions in return for a seat in the proposed international conference. Instead, the PLO insisted that its acceptance of 242 and 338 should be coupled with a clear American endorsement of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

During his stay here, Mr. Arafat held several rounds of talks with the King and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. On Thursday Mr. Rifai received at his home the PLO chairman and two of his senior aides.

A PLO bulletin said on Friday there was nothing new in latest United States proposals to revive Middle East peace moves.

The bulletin said the proposals contained nothing new "compared with the previous ones which the PLO had rejected as unacceptable."

Washington's new idea expressed consent, in principle, to convening an international Middle East conference to be attended by non-PLO Palestinians, provided the PLO recognised Resolutions 242 and 338, the bulletin said.

PLO trims expenses

In another development, Reuters quoted a senior PLO official as saying that the PLO will trim its expenditures in the face of a \$100 million deficit.

Jawad Al Gboussein, chairman of the Palestine National Fund (PNF), told Reuters the deficit was due to the delay in payment of Arab contributions totalling \$250 million allotted to the PLO by an Arab summit held in Baghdad in 1978.

Mr. Gboussein said only Saudi Arabia was fulfilling its commitments both to the PLO and to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian steadfastness committee.

Thatcher denies bribery charges in Westland affair

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher moved swiftly to defuse a new sensation in the Westland affair on Friday by personally denying that any member of her government offered a bribe to bribe a millionaire businessman.

Alan Bristow, biggest private shareholder in the Westland helicopter firm, alleged on television he was offered the honour if he would stop "embarrassing" the government with his opposition to an American rescue of the ailing company.

Mr. Bristow said the offer came from two peers — members of the House of Lords. Since all honours are in the gift of the prime minister, his allegation was seen as a potential bombshell.

With newspaper headlines on Friday proclaiming "Tory bribe

sensation," Mrs. Thatcher issued a denial stating: "No member of the government, nor anyone acting on its behalf, has made any offer of an honour to Mr. Bristow."

"No approach has been made to me that any such offer be considered. I should have dismissed any such approach out of hand as a total abuse of the honours system."

Mr. Bristow said the peers, whom he refused to name, made the offer at an "eyeball-to-eyeball" meeting on the eve of a crucial shareholders' meeting.

In the event Mr. Bristow used his 15 per cent holding to block the American rescue package from the Sikorsky and FIAT firms.

Doubts cast on Thatcher's bid for reelection, page 4

Spanish admiral buried amid outcry over killings

MADRID (R) — Spanish Vice-Admiral Cristobal Colon de Carvajal and his driver were buried here on Friday against a backdrop of protests against their suspected Basque separatist killers.

Officials said the guerrillas selected their target because his name translates in English Christopher as Columbus.

Colon de Carvajal, 61, duke of Veragua and la Vega, was the 19th direct descendant of the discoverer of America and as such had the title of admiral and first explorer of the Indies.

His aide, Major Antonio Rodriguez Tourbe, was recovering in hospital from serious wounds suffered in Thursday's hand grenade and sub-machinegun attack in central Madrid.

Officials blamed the precision ambush on the ETA (Basque

Homeland and Freedom) which killed 37 people last year in its 18-year-old war for an independent Basque state.

King Juan Carlos' father, Don Juan Count of Barcelona, presided over the funeral.

Concern over unrest within the armed forces, which had gradually died down since an abortive 1981 coup, resurfaced in the press and parties across the political spectrum strongly condemned the killings.

Surprise ... at

Voltaire

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Iraqi aircrafts launch another raid on Kharg

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes on Friday raided Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal and an unidentified ship off Iran's Gulf coast to "shatter the artery feeding the aggression," a military spokesman said.

The spokesman, reading a communiqué on the state radio, said the two separate raids were carried out at 10:50 a.m.

The raiding Iraqi jets, according to the spokesman, scored "direct and accurate hits" on Kharg facilities and a "large maritime target." Iraq's byword for a tanker, and returned safely.

The air activity in the Gulf is the first reported by Iraq since Tuesday when its jet fighters twice raided the main oil pumping station which feeds the Kharg Island terminal.

The pumping station at Ganaveh, 45 kilometres north east of Kharg, controls the flow of oil from all the Iranian fields to the terminal which was originally designed to handle 90 per cent of Iran's crude exports.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf confirmed that Ganaveh was raided by the Iraqis and said the main pumping junction, which directs the flow of oil to Kharg, sustained a direct hit in the first Iraqi attack against the facility last Jan. 23.

Iraqi warplanes, last Monday, raided the 289,000-tonne Maltese supertanker "Toril" off the Iranian coast, setting fire to it. No casualties were reported.

The spokesman, who was unidentified in keeping with regulations in force since outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980, said that Iraq will maintain such attacks on Kharg Island and ships dealing with Iranian ports "until the aggressors accept peace."

Iraq, in February 1984, said it was imposing a blockade on Kharg Island and other Iranian ports within a 50-mile radius in the north eastern sector of the Gulf waterway to throttle the oil-based Iranian economy and force the Tehran government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to accept a negotiated settlement.

Meanwhile salvage tugs have extinguished a fire aboard the Cypriot tanker Avocat, hit by Iranian missiles in the Gulf, but the 21,504-tonne ship is likely to be a total loss, shipping sources said Friday.

Four crewmen were killed and at least two injured when two or more air-launched missiles crashed into the Avocat's accommodation section Thursday, gutting the superstructure and exposing some of the oil tanks, they said.

Tugs were now awaiting the owners' instructions on where to tow the Avocat, which would probably be scrapped, they added.

The Qatari Navy Thursday plucked survivors to safety from the vessel, about 50 miles east of Qatar.

The official Qatar News Agency quoted the Greek captain as saying that in addition to one confirmed dead and three missing, assumed killed, two crewmen were seriously wounded and seven slightly hurt.

It did not identify the casualties, but said the crew had comprised 25 Indians, nine Greeks, three Sri Lankans and two Filipinos.

The shipping sources said the tanker had been heading in ballast from Pakistan to the Saudi Arabian port of Ras Tannurah to load crude for a refinery in Karachi.

Early reports Thursday said the vessel normally carried Iranian crude to a point outside the Gulf, but the sources said it had stopped that work in favour of the Saudi-Pakistan route.

The attack was launched around 0730 GMT in an area of frequent Iranian attacks.

"The tanker was around Shah Allum Shoal at daylight. They should have known better," one shipping source said. "There's never been one attacked there during the hours of darkness."

Iraq's last reported attack was on Monday, when a missile slammed into the 65,259-tonne Liberian-registered Noga about 70 miles east of Qatar. It had been reported carrying Saudi Arabian crude towards France.

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department has said there were indications Soviets and Cubans fought with rebels who ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammad in 12 days of fierce battles between Marxist factions in South Yemen last month.

It said Soviet involvement appeared to increase as the rebels gained the upper hand.

The State Department had earlier cited what it described as evidence that Soviet forces had sided with the rebels but in response to questions Thursday said there had been indications of direct Soviet and Cuban involvement in the fighting.

A department spokesman cited "reports that Cubans had been active in logistics support and maintenance of equipment for the rebel forces."

"Other reports indicate that the Soviets have been involved in combat situations in support of rebel forces, and may have gone as far as directing tank and artillery fire or even piloting attack planes," the spokesman said.

He did not say where these reports came from, but added: "While this apparent support for the rebels is based on scattered and unconfirmed reports, the reports do seem to indicate a credible pattern of increasing and significant Soviet support for the rebel group," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile the Central Committee of South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party Thursday elected former local government minister Ali Salem Al Beedhi as party secretary-general, the Gulf news Agency reported.

The agency was monitoring Aden Radio.

Mr. Beedhi replaces ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammad in the top party post.

Mr. Beedhi was one of four senior politicians reported to have been executed after an alleged attempt to overthrow Mr. Moh-

ammad on Jan. 13, an event that triggered the fighting that ended with Mr. Mohammad's overthrow.

Mr. Mohammad, ousted from the presidency of South Yemen in bloody fighting last month, discussed recent events in his country with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Thursday, the official Syrian News Agency said.

Press reports said he arrived in Damascus Wednesday night after visits to Ethiopia, Algeria and Libya.

The agency gave no details of his visit here but referred to him as "President Ali Nasser Mohammad."

It also said Mr. Assad received a telephone call from South Yemen's transitional president, Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, to convey his nation's condemnation of Israel's interception on Tuesday of a Libyan passenger plane carrying Syrian officials.

The pilot told reporters later he had switched from the normal route over the sea and headed inland because of a violent storm and poor visibility.

"But after five minutes we came under fire. Several bullets hit the helicopter. In the fore section, the engine and the battery. We were forced to land in open country," he said.

"Two minutes later, a fire broke out on board, but the mechanic managed to put it out. We realised we were very lucky to be alive," he added.

The sources said the passengers and crew travelled on to Naqura by road after they were freed in the presence of UNIFIL and Lebanese army officers.

The "Islamic Grouping" is part of an alliance of Sidon-based militias confronting the pro-Israeli "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia at fronts 10 kilometres east of Sidon.

It said in a statement Wednesday its men had fired on the UNIFIL helicopter thinking it belonged to the SLA.

meanwhile a fundamentalist Muslim militia has freed the passengers and crew of a U.N. helicopter its fighters shot down over South Lebanon in error Wednesday.

An SLA soldier was killed near Bint Jebel on Sunday while dismantling a booby-trapped Katyusha rocket launcher.

U.N. helicopter downed

2nd SLA militiaman killed in 1 week

TEL AVIV (R) — A soldier in the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia was killed in an ambush near Jezzine, Israel Radio said. He was the second SLA militiaman killed this week in southern Lebanon.

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Minister outlines construction developments over past 5 years

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh has said that the government directs special attention to developing the construction sector and its related legislation. He also said that the government is about to issue a new contract law, will establish an association for contractors and that it has embarked on a study aimed at developing contracting companies, both administratively and financially, in order to organise financial relations between them, banks and their clients.

The government will also reconsider the public works regulation and contracts procedures with the aim of standardising them, the minister continued. Speaking about the construction sector during the past five-year development plan, Mr. Hawamdeh said that the last plan witnessed the issuance of the government public works regulation under which the government contracts department was created. Also, general provisions of the unified contract were approved by the cabinet during the previous plan, he added.

The minister went on to say that five volumes out of the 33 in the national building code have been issued and are currently being printed. The last plan also witnessed the issuance of two studies about the volume of work in the construction sector and conditions of engineers in Jordan, he said.

The volume of work executed during the plan amounted to JD 1,140 million which means that the annual average rate was JD 228 million, in addition to approximately JD 200 million implemented by the private sector, the minister said. The public sector's works included road construction, buildings, water and sewerage networks, electromechanical projects, engineering services and other services, he added.

Speaking about the number of tenders the government has awarded to contractors, Mr. Hawamdeh said that the Central Tendering Committee awarded 168 tenders worth JD 55 million during the past five years. The ministry has also classified 319 contractors, employing some 1,000 engineers, into different categories, Mr. Hawamdeh concluded.

Committee finalises draft law on graves, burial procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee charged with drawing up a draft law for graves and burials has finalised the draft law and referred it to the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs in preparation for submission to the cabinet for consideration and approval.

The committee was formed to develop and update the legal provisions and organisational issues pertaining to graves and burials in order to facilitate burial procedures and overcome difficulties arising from the number of the authorities dealing with the procedures.

The committee, which is headed by the ministry of awqaf and Islamic affairs, groups Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib, the general Mufti of Jordan, Mr. Abdul Halim Awad, head of the legal department at Amman Municipality, Dr. Mazen Nawfal, head of the environment department at Amman Municipality, Dr. Fathi Saleh, medical officer at the Amman Health Department, and Dr. Ma'moun Salah, head of the legal department at the ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

WAJ connects all areas of Amman to sewerage system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has announced that all areas within Amman have now been connected to the public sewerage system and the authority called on the public to connect their houses to the network immediately. A WAJ spokesman said that from now on trucks will be allowed to pump

waste from cesspools within the Amman region. The spokesman appealed to the public to cooperate with the WAJ for the purpose of safeguarding public health and safety and be cautioned that fines will be imposed on home owners who fail to connect their houses to the sewerage system.

Health Ministry sends nurses on training course in U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry is sending eight fully accredited nurses to the University of Oklahoma in the United States where they will take a three-month training course. On their return to Jordan, these nurses will be employed as instructors at the new Irbid nursing college. A Ministry of Health spokesman said that the eight nurses will be taught advanced techniques in caring for children, basic health care, public

health and the care of women patients in hospitals. Minister of Health Zaid Hamzah said in a statement quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that a tender will be announced after the end of February for building the new nursing college in Irbid. The new college, he said, will be located at Farkoub district within the King Abdullah Medical Complex which also includes the new Irbid Hospital.

Dutch journalist sees potential in Jordan as a tourist destination

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Political instability in the Middle East is a major factor working against the region's stepped-up efforts to attract tourists," according to a journalist working for the Amsterdam-based Elsevier magazine. "The majority of Westerners associate Jordan with the region's wars and bloodshed," Mr. Philip Mok, a foreign editor at the magazine told the Jordan Times in an interview on Friday.

"The West Bank attracts far more tourists than the Kingdom itself, largely due to the occupied territories' authentic religious sites. A lot of foreigners go there out of religious convictions," he said. Mr. Mok, who arrived here ten days ago at the invitation of the Tourism Authority, also said that tourists who go to the West Bank or Israel do not fear Palestinian demonstrations against the Israeli occupation authorities as these incidents are usually confined to certain areas and are immediately dispersed.

Mr. Mok, who visited Jordan with a seven-member Dutch group comprising two journalists and four travel agents, said that Jordan's tourism facilities have been neglected and have therefore remained under-developed. "Your country is full of treasures, natural beauty, touristic attractions and authentic historical sites which have not been promoted abroad," he said.

The Tourism Authority invited this group to visit Jordan in line with its increasing efforts to market the Kingdom abroad and to upgrade the country's tourism sector. During the group's stay here, they visited the Kingdom's historical and touristic attractions and explored the possibilities of

marketing Jordan abroad and organising group tours to the country.

"The major set-back in the country's policy to encourage and upgrade Jordan's tourism sector is that there are other socio-economic and health priorities on top of Jordan's development list priorities," he said.

Lack of publicity

Mr. Mok pointed out that Wadi Rum and Aqaba are magnificent relaxation sites which have suffered from a lack of international publicity. "I have never heard of the possibilities of mountaineering in the Wadi Rum region," Mr. Mok said. He also added that the huge ships which dock at Aqaba's port do not help promote the city as a resort. He said that many tourists would hate the idea of spending a holiday where they only get the feeling of a harbour and he suggested that the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) should ask the ships to wait off the city's shore and only enter the harbour to unload their cargo.

Mr. Mok also asked why more crossing points between the East and West Banks of Jordan were not opened to encourage the exchange of foreign tourists.

Mr. Mok suggested that Jordan could be marketed as a tourist destination by stressing its archaeological and historical sites, its winter climate and Jordan's oriental and modern image. "A lot of Westerners want to spend their holiday in a Mediterranean climate. Why don't they come to Jordan and to its lovely city of Aqaba," he asked. Mr. Mok concluded by saying that he would convey the image of Jordan and Jordanians to Holland as he had perceived it to be.

Engineers fail to get quorum for elections

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The General Assembly of the Jordan Engineers Association Friday did not muster a quorum to elect a new president, vice president and members of the council. The required quorum is not less than half of the members registered in the association who have already fulfilled their financial commitments who number about 6,700, according to the association's President Ibrahim Abu Ayyash.

Mr. Abu Ayyash attributed the failure to secure a quorum to a lack of interest on the part of some engineers. "It is not due to any political influence or clashes between the candidates," Mr. Abu Ayyash told the Jordan Times.

He said that any number of attendants in next Friday's assembly will secure a quorum, as stated in the statute of the association. The elections for the new president will follow a week later, added Mr. Abu Ayyash who himself is running for a second term in office. Osama Al Anazi and Mohammad Abu Jbara also nominated themselves for the post of president. Vice presidency is being sought by Michael Massout, Omar Budeir, Mohammad Mhanna, Ziad Matarnah, Samih Bekir, Dr. Jalal Duwani and Ghasan Abdul Majeed.

Standing for the council membership are At'ul Rahman Bitar, Ahmad Rashdan, Da'oud Khalaf, Yassin Tarawneh and Wajih Ezzieh from the civil engineering sector. Representing the architecture sector are Abdul Latif Hadidi, Omar Rusan, Usama Abu Jbara and Jamal Shakhshir.

From the mechanical engineering sector are Ahmad Abu Zaid and Abdel Ra'uf Masri while Ahmad Keilani, Khaled Samara and Rihhi Hamed are nominees for the electrical engineering sector.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi confers with Spanish envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi conferred in his office Thursday with Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Mendez. They discussed a visit to Jordan by the speaker of the Spanish senate who made a visit to Syria in the past year and also reviewed Jordanian-Spanish relations.

Indian trade team due today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-member Indian trade delegation is due here today on a several day visit to Jordan during which they will hold talks dealing with promoting trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and India within the framework of a trade agreement signed between the two countries. Talks with the Indian delegation will start on Sunday.

Dakhqan bans house plant imports

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan has issued instructions prohibiting the importation of house plants as of Feb. 15. Only a limited number of certain types of plants were excluded from the ban. The Jordanian News Agency said that the instructions were taken following the release of a statistical bulletin which revealed that over the past four months, Jordan imported more than two million house plants which the report said denied local nurseries the chance of growing their own saplings for the market.

Cement for Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement has been signed at the Jordan Cement Factories Company under which 300,000 tonnes of cement will be exported to Saudi Arabia. The new agreement will come into effect within the next few days.

Urban development in Ruseifa

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement will be signed today for the execution of the first stage of the second urban development project in north Ruseifa. The agreement will be signed by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and representatives of the Chinese construction firm which will carry out the project.

Captagon user receives two months

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Khaled Ghanem Al Seirafi to two months in prison and fined him JD 25 for acquiring Captagon pills. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Agricultural plan focuses on increasing production, farm profits and wages

AMMAN (Petra) — Working committees charged with drawing up an agricultural five-year plan for 1986-1990 have said that the new plan aims to preserve basic agricultural resources and to protect the natural environment and to utilise available land in the best and most economical manner, a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Sha'ab said Friday.

The plan also aims at increasing agricultural revenues and the earnings of farmers and workers in the agricultural sector in addition to encouraging investment in agriculture, the report added.

The plan has the objective of increasing the net income from agriculture from JD 76 million

during the last five-year plan to JD 108 million during the present five-year plan, thus achieving a total increase of 42 percent and an annual growth rate of 8 per cent through increasing agricultural production. It is forecast that wheat production will be increased to 143,000 tonnes from its previous level of 61,000 tonnes during the last five-year plan, legumes from 9,000 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes and barley from 20,000 to 26,000 tonnes. Green fodder will also be increased from 3,000 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes, vegetables from 628,000 tonnes to 970,000 tonnes, olives from 40,000 tonnes to 57,000 tonnes and fruit from 41,000 tonnes to 120,000 tonnes, according to the

committees plan.

It is anticipated that dairy production will also be increased from 49,000 tonnes to 67,000 tonnes and red meat from 9,500 tonnes to 16,000 tonnes, poultry from 37,000 to 50,000, fish from 200 tonnes to 1,000 and eggs from 402 billion to 445 million, the report said.

These increases will be achieved by utilising more irrigated land in the eastern and southern regions of Jordan where wheat and fodder will be planted. The plan also foresees increasing the area of irrigated land in the Jordan Valley, the south Jordan Valley and Wadi Araba and using it for producing vegetables and fruit applying agricultural cropping patterns.

U.S. vetoes resolution censuring Israel

(Continued from page 1)

the Libyan plane. But, he said, his country believed that the ability to take such action in carefully defined conditions was part of the "inherent right of self-defence under the U.N. Charter," according to a Reuters dispatch.

"We must be clear that terrorist violence — and not the response to terrorist violence — is the cause of the cycle of violence which increasingly and tragically mars the Middle East and the entire world," according to Mr. Walters. As a general principle, the U.S. opposed the interception of civil aircraft and had been prepared to vote for a resolution to that effect, he said.

"At the same time, we believe that there may arise exceptional circumstances in which an interception may be justified," he continued.

Australia, Britain, Denmark and France abstained on the resolution. Ten members of the 15-nation council voted in favour.

In Tripoli, Colonel Qadhafi, in his first public response to Tuesday's Israeli action, told a press conference: "I have issued orders to the Libyan air force to intercept any Israeli civilian airliner over the Mediterranean and as long as they are within the range of Libyan air bases."

He said any Israeli planes intercepted by Libyan jets would be brought to Libyan territory and "the passengers will be searched to find the Israeli terrorists wanted by Libyan courts."

The Libyan leader specifically mentioned former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and serving Minister of Industry and Trade Ariel Sharon as terrorists wanted by Libya.

Col. Qadhafi said the interception order would remain in force "until the Israelis stop and commit themselves to abstain from targeting civilian objectives." In reply to a question what rules Libyan jets would apply to the

order, he said: "We will apply the rule of reciprocity and we will abide by international rules and regulations."

Libya "does not want peace from them (Israel) but we want to force them to respect the rules of war and international laws," he added.

Col. Qadhafi said the Libyan operation would not be deterred by the presence of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. "If the Americans commit aggression against our planes we will attack them," he said.

He again warned vessels of the Sixth Fleet to stay out of the Gulf of Sirte, which Libya regards as territorial waters. He said the gulf "is our house" and that any incursion would lead to military "confrontation."

The Libyan air force is believed to have more than 2,000 operational aircraft, most of them supplied by the Soviet Union. They are at a series of air bases lining the 1,600-kilometre-long Libyan coast.

The air force includes an unknown number of modern MiG-23s with a range of several hundred kilometres.

Libya's threat, if carried out, could menace Israeli airliners en route to Western Europe or North America and flying through a vast area of the central Mediterranean.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli transportation ministry announced on Friday that its civil aviation authority "has determined a new flight route for aircraft landing in and departing from Israel."

The ministry said the new route had been drawn up as far as possible from the borders of Syrian and Libyan airspace. The aim was to "ensure that air links between Israel and other countries will not be interrupted," it said.

An official of the ministry was quoted as saying by AP that the changes were "part of security measures in view of the latest threats" by Palestinians, Syria and Libya.

Following Tuesday's Israeli seizure of the Libyan plane, the leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, Ahmad Jibril, in a Tripoli press conference, warned international travellers not to fly on Israeli or American planes.

Reacting to the warning, the U.S. State Department said the U.S. would make any appropriate response to any attack on American airlines.

Spokesman Redman said: "Should any group launch a terrorist attack against the U.S., we will take whatever action we deem appropriate in response."

Libya has accused the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean of providing Israel with information on the flight of the Libyan aircraft.

Israel, which said the operation was aimed at capturing people "involved in planning attacks against Israel," conceded that it failed to achieve its objective. Reports say that Israel believed that the plane was carrying one or more of Palestinian leaders based in Damascus. But the aircraft was carrying Syrian and Lebanese delegations which participated in a Tripoli conference.

Israeli military officials say Mr. Jibril was the prime target of the bungled interception.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told AP that Israel had stepped up security at its embassies abroad, which have been a target for attacks in the past, and news reports said similar measures were taken at Israel's El Al airlines check-in counters abroad.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir sought to quell dissent within the government over the hijacking.

"Until now, we have never witnessed this kind of striptease before our enemies," Shamir said in a radio interview. "I don't think we have to reveal to the entire world the ways in which Israel takes its decisions."

Khayyat chairs meeting on Israeli violations at Al Aqsa

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has called for the formation of public delegations to tour Islamic countries to give these countries full details about the developments in the occupied Arab lands in general and the atrocities committed by Israel against holy sites in particular.

The minister was speaking at a meeting, held at the World Islamic League headquarters in Amman, which was called to discuss Israel's continued violations of the sanctity of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Dr. Khayyat told the meeting that the Jerusalem issue and conditions at Al Aqsa Mosque are of the utmost concern for the Arab and Islamic worlds as the mosque is among the most revered shrines of Islam.

Sheikh Khayyat called for measures to be taken in order to strengthen the steadfastness of the Arab people of Jerusalem to enable them to defend Al Aqsa Mosque and confront Israel's plans to demolish the holy shrine and build a Jewish temple on the site.

Also speaking at the meeting was Dr. Abdullah Nassif, the league's secretary general, who outlined the conditions of Muslims

around the world and their weakness in confronting Zionist plots. He called on Muslims to unite and become strong and capable of defending their rights and holy places.

Among the speakers was former Awqaf Minister Kamel Al Sharif who said that protection of Al Aqsa Mosque constitutes the

touchstone for the Arab and Muslim nation's real power. Mr. Sharif paid tribute to the efforts being made by the World Islamic League to spread awareness about the Islamic places throughout the world. A number of leading religious figures and officials attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Dr. Abdullah Nassif held a meeting with members of a committee entrusted with the task of safeguarding mosques in Jordan. They discussed matters connected with the teaching of Koran to the younger generation and the preservation and maintenance of mosques around the country.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat chairs a meeting on developments in the occupied territories (Petra photo)

Specialists discuss genetic diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (JSOG) in cooperation with the Jordanian pediatrics society organised a seminar on Friday at the Marriott Hotel with the participation of Jordanian specialists as well as invited specialists from Egypt and Greece.

During the first session, Dr. Gilbert Cote from Greece submitted a research on the basics of genetics and Dr. Ekram Abdul Salam, professor of pediatrics at Cairo University, Egypt, discussed research on the screening of newborn babies for genetic diseases. Dr. Cote then presented a research paper on chromosomal abnormalities.

In the second session Dr. Cote presented a research on the antenatal diagnosis of genetic diseases. Dr. Abdul Salam discussed research on genetic problems resulting from inter-marriage. Dr. Sami Khouri from the University of Jordan discussed the primary results of genetic diseases resulting from inter-marriage in Jordan. The third session was alloted to research conducted by Dr. Samira Baban from the Cerebral Palsy Foundation on the physical handicaps resulting from genetic diseases in Jordan.

JDA to hold conference on deteriorating health services in occupied Arab territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The deteriorating health conditions in the occupied Arab territories and the drop in the standard of medical services to the Arab people under Israeli rule will be among the main topics to be discussed at a general conference to be held by the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) towards the end of March, according to JDA President Walid Maraga.

He said in a statement, quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper, that the three-day conference, to open on March 27 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will examine more than 30 researches and working papers on dentistry in general and dentures and also on the health situation in Israeli-occupied territories.

Dr. Maraga said that more than 500 specialists from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries will take part in the meetings to be held at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman.

Dentists from Jordanian universities, the private sector, government and Armed Forces hospitals in Jordan as well as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will participate in the conference. Dr. Maraga added. He also said that dentists from the United Kingdom, the United States and Greece have been invited to take part in the meetings and deliver lectures on topics related to dentures.

On the sidelines of the conference, he continued, the JDA will organise an exhibition of medical equipment, medicines and appliances used in dentistry.

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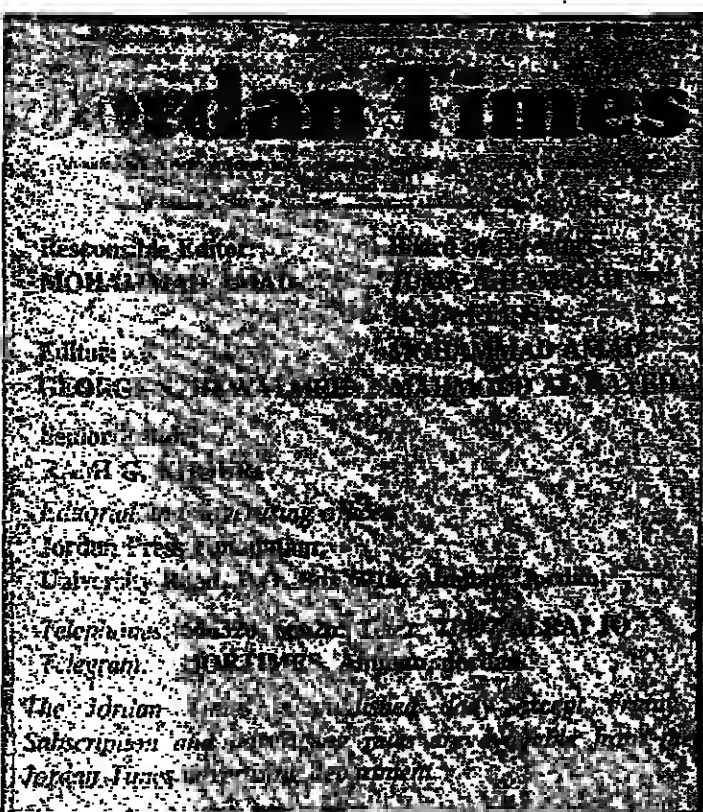
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Stop the aggression now

ALL indications point to the fact that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance is based on the concept of sapping the Arab nation's resources and keeping the Arabs in a state of weakness and division. The two allies have made it their own business to keep the Arabs involved in side issues and to keep them under foreign domination while at the same time the Zionists continue a drive to consolidate their hold on the Arab territories in Palestine. What surprises us is the current attitude of the Arab leaders and their governments is that while they are witnessing daily aggression on their nation by the United States and Israel they are doing nothing to stop it. The Arabs and the Muslims have seen the Israelis committing acts of sacrilege in their holy places and committing acts of terrorism in the sky, on land and at sea but they still remain impassive. Confronting the aggressors and thwarting their evil machinations require solid unity and unified and concerted Arab action through an Arab summit meeting. The Arabs should concentrate their efforts on regaining Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and saving their holy places from usurpation and desecration. Unless the Arabs take meaningful action now, they will remain prone to further aggression and more acts of terrorism.

Al Dustour: Israeli-U.S. alliance

SINCE Ronald Reagan assumed the presidency in the United States the Middle East region has become an open arena for Israel's acts of aggression and terrorism, and our holy places exposed to further Zionist encroachments and violations. It is under Reagan that the Israelis launched an aggression on Lebanon and expanded their settlement programmes in the occupied Arab lands. It is also under President Reagan that the United States committed itself to vetoing any resolution at the United Nations Security Council that aimed to condemn Israel's arbitrary actions, American veto of resolutions against Israel's invasion of Lebanon and continued atrocities in the occupied Arab territories are alive in our memory, and therefore any complaint against Israel's air piracy would no doubt be thwarted by a U.S. veto at the Security Council. It is due to Washington's support for the Israelis and its continued backing in international forums and unlimited help, financially and militarily, that Israel is being made able to pursue all its acts of terrorism and aggression on the Arabs. Without the help of the American navy in the Mediterranean, the Israeli war planes would not have been able to hijack the Arab plane. This trend in U.S. and Israeli policies will continue unless the Arabs realise the need for joining forces to repel aggression.

Sawt Al Shaab: Solidarity is the answer

IN our drive to win world support for our just causes and in our struggle to regain our rights we indeed require support and sympathy by as many world nations as possible. But it should be emphasised that no matter how many condemnations and denunciations are issued against Israel's acts of aggression and terrorism, we would not regain our rights. Whether the international community condemned the air piracy committed against an Arab plane on Tuesday or not, Israel would not be persuaded to refrain from pursuing its aggressive policy on the Arabs and would never stop its ill practices against our people in the occupied territories. All the world's diplomatic offensives would not enable us to regain our rights and our land. Only through our solidarity and our unified action can we hope to achieve our aspirations and our goals. We do not belittle the support and sympathy of world nations for our just causes but we should also show the world at large that we are worthy of such sympathy, because we can come together and work out a unified strategy to help regain our rights.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Calling on the U.S.

THE hijacking of an Arab airliner by Israel has helped to rally Arab support for Syria, and the continued threat by Israel and the United States to Libya has unified Arab states and brought hope again for Arab solidarity. This solidarity should be translated into action to put an end to Israel's aggression and its acts of terrorism. The Arabs should not be satisfied with a mere condemnation by the United Nations Security Council of this new Israeli crime, nor should they remain idle, awaiting another aggression so that other complaints can be lodged with the world organisation. As the Security Council was discussing the Syrian complaint, the Israelis have made it known that they will pursue further acts of terrorism and will undertake any action that can help them achieve their goals. This means that the Israelis have no regard whatsoever for the world organisation or its condemnation for their terrorist actions and atrocities. This also means that Israel was sure of a United States veto that would kill any resolution condemning Israel's actions. There can be no hope for the Arabs for deterring Israel except by resorting to force and through solidarity and unified action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for action

ISRAEL'S terrorist actions, whether they are in the sky, in the sea or on land are not a novelty to our region, because Israel bases its ideological concepts on the principles of Zionism which advocate terrorism wherever possible and by any means. The new Zionist act of piracy against an Arab plane carrying an official Syrian delegation falls under the Zionist version of terrorism and so this action came as no surprise to the Arab World. Therefore, this overwhelming Arab condemnation of the Israeli hijacking of the Arab plane should not end there, but should rather be transformed into action. The Arabs should take the initiative and adopt practical measures to put an end to acts of piracy and should take the initiative to deter the Israelis from launching other forms of aggression. They must do as they did in 1973 when they launched war on the aggressors. As Arabs, we are requested now to study this lesson and should step up our preparedness for confronting the Zionist-colonial onslaught on our land and our people. The American-Zionist alliance and terrorist collusion is now clear to all, and it is directed against the Arabs everywhere; and therefore, should be confronted with all the power which this nation possesses. The Arabs should be able to wage war with the same power and enthusiasm that they have for making peace.

'Beautiful' Israelis; 'ugly' Arabs

By Elfi Pallis

AFTER A few days in the sedate religious atmosphere of Jerusalem, younger tourists tend to gravitate towards Tel Aviv's seaside fleshpots. Here, Israelis proudly say, is a truly modern Jewish city, free from any Arab history or presence, and indeed its night-life is more reminiscent of Palm Beach than the East. After dark, Dizengoff Boulevard teems with young men in designer T-shirts and sleek-haired young women dressed as if they have sprung straight out of "Dynasty". Conspicuous consumption is the order of the day, and nobody could guess the state of Israel's economy from their appearance. It is a thoroughly official crowd. The days when an officer's uniform was the thing to wear if one wished to attract admiring glances ended with the invasion of Lebanon.

But there is also a darker side to Tel Aviv's nightlife that is reminiscent of a place other than Florida. When the revellers go home, the "Mishmar Ezzrah", the city's civil defence patrols, go into action. While police and security forces deal with crime and terrorism, the civil defence volunteers try to ensure that Tel Aviv's Palestinian waiters, cleaners and market porters do not break the law by staying in the Jewish town between 1 a.m. and sunrise. Armed but not uniformed, the volunteers are entitled to check, search and arrest Arab suspects, and have a reputation for brutality and intimidation. Palestinian workers who have come into contact with them describe them as behaving "like your Russian Cossacks."

Some time ago, the leader of one patrol was dismissed after some high school volunteers had testified that she let the boys in her group heat up any Arab they found in the street, "until he was crying." Reports of similar incidents regularly appear in the

press. But such publicity only seems to attract more violent recruits to the Mishmar Ezzrah. One of its commanders, Aharon Vardi, recently complained that "20 per cent of those serving in it are criminals and another five per cent are certified madmen." Yet the patrols operate not only outdoors, where their methods are open to some scrutiny, but are allowed to enter buildings which they suspect might contain permissives residents. Palestinian workers have filed numerous police complaints after being not only maltreated but also robbed of their wages and possessions by civil defence patrols raiding their sleeping quarters. Only the "legal" workers, usually Arabs from Galilee, dare to complain, and most assaults go unreported.

Forced on the Israeli labour market by the land confiscations, many Palestinians have to accept appalling housing conditions. Israeli employers, who are not liable

for their workers' breaches of residence laws, often put them up on the job rather than pay their transport costs. A late-night look through the shutters of Tel Aviv's fashionable restaurants sometimes reveals the shapes of three or four men stretched out on their serving tables. Others are crowded together, sometimes two in a bed, in beach huts and city rooftops. In one nocturnal incident, four men from Gaza burned to death when their workplace and accommodation, a carpenter's shed, caught fire. They could not escape because their employer had locked them in as a precaution against the civil defence patrol. Two other Palestinian workers, who were sleeping rough in an old air raid shelter, suffocated after lighting a fire to warm themselves by.

A visit to friends, an elderly couple who immigrated to Palestine in the 1920s, reveals the extent to which the present con-

ditions of Arab labour are taken for granted. Clinging to the side of their house in a pleasant, tree-lined street in prestigious north Tel Aviv is a small, crooked cardboard shed. When I ask whether this is a playhouse built by the residents' children, they put me right without a trace of embarrassment. It is "the Arab" who stays in the shed during weekdays, they explain to me. He cleans and gardens for the street's residents, and goes back to his village on weekends. From the name of the "village" I gather that it is, in fact, a refugee camp. They are eager to point out that he is a decent chap. He does not steal and has said that he does not approve of terrorism. "Everybody wants peace and quiet to bring up their families," is what he told them. They think he has a wife and children, but are not sure; nor do they know where he gets water or cooks his meals. The shed must be cold during winter nights, even if the thin plastic

sheet on the roof does keep the rain out.

Sensing disapproval, my hosts sigh and admit that things are not as they should be. "When we were young," says the old woman, "we worked on the roads, cleaned, farmed, did everything. But now Jews don't want to do what they think of as dirty jobs." Both bruck back nostalgically to the days of Hebrew labour. "In any case, the man has a home elsewhere and comes here of his own free will," says the man defensively. "It just shows that the Arabs cannot even manage to provide employment for their own people." When I suggest this might be a bit harsh, he shrugs his shoulder. "Arab labour is a problem, of course it is a problem," he admits finally, "but then the Jews have always had problems, and this is just one of them." It seems a somewhat self-indulgent way of dealing with an ugly development — Middle East International, London.

Concern in S. Korea as North voices nuclear power bid

By Granville Watts
Reuter

SEOUL — South Korea, which has one of the world's biggest nuclear power programmes, has reacted nervously to Pyongyang's announcement that it will enter the nuclear power club.

South Korea's National Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), with nine nuclear plants operational or under construction, has invited 18 firms from seven countries to bid for two more by March next year.

But when North Korea announced in December that the Soviet Union would help to build Pyongyang's first atomic power plant, Seoul expressed deep concern and urged Moscow to ensure peaceful use of the northern nuclear programme.

Foreign diplomats noted that Pyongyang joined the International Atomic Energy Agency on December 12 when it deposited its instrument of accession with the Soviet Union.

The U.S. State Department welcomed the move and said North Korea had undertaken to put all its nuclear facilities under international safeguards to prevent diversion of nuclear material for weapons.

"As far as we know the Russians will insist that the spent fuel be returned to the Soviet Union. They exercise strict controls over Soviet-aided nuclear plants in

East Europe and there is nothing to suggest they will be less strict with Pyongyang," one senior Western diplomat said.

U.S. officials said North Korea was reported to be building a nuclear reactor capable of producing plutonium, a key element in the construction of nuclear weapons.

Western intelligence sources say there is no evidence of any nuclear warheads in North Korea. U.S. and South Korean military officials in the south routinely reply "no comment" when asked about the presence of nuclear arms in South Korea.

South Korean nuclear scientists have admitted their country has raised some doubts that its ambitious nuclear programme is also aimed at developing atomic weapons. But they say Seoul is firmly committed to the non-proliferation treaty, to which it acceded in 1975.

South Korea is demanding a greater amount of technology transfer from bidders for its next two nuclear plants. With a combined capacity of 1,800 megawatts, they will cost a total of about \$3.1 billion for completion by 1996.

"It's cut-throat competition to curry favour with KEPCO, which demands greater technology transfer as a must," said K.W. Lee, business application manager at the Seoul branch of Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

In what some foreign experts regard as an over-ambitious approach, South Korean officials say

that Seoul would like to build future plants itself.

The country plans to build several more plants by the year 2000 against a backdrop of shrinking nuclear works abroad.

"In the long term, atomic energy is a viable answer to our country which lacks major natural resources," KEPCO spokesman Shin Son-Kyun told Reuters.

"We aim to build any future atomic plants 100 per cent with our own hands. Therefore technology transfer would be an overriding concern to us in picking bidders for the next two," Shin said.

"We may not need any more foreign technology after them," he added.

But Western diplomats branded the Korean thinking as too ambitious. "One of the problems is that the Koreans want the technology but at the moment do not want to accept the responsibility for the joint effort," one diplomat said.

Of the 18 firms invited, six are bidding to furnish nuclear reactors — Westinghouse and another U.S. company, Combustion Engineering Inc., France's Framatome S.A., Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), West Germany's Kraftwerk Union (KWU) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan.

The rest are competing for turbine and other generating equipment and designing and engineering contracts.

Leak row casts doubt on Thatcher standing for 3rd term

By Harvey Morris
Reuter

LONDON — There is growing speculation at the Palace of Westminster, the seat of the British parliament, that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher may be forced out of office before the next election.

Despite her best efforts to bury the so-called Westland crisis, which led to the resignation of two of her ministers last month, Thatcher's position is seen by political commentators as increasingly vulnerable.

Suspicious persist that she is hiding the full facts about the leak of a secret government document that was central to a cabinet row over the future of the Westland helicopter company.

Members of her ruling Conservative Party have begun to comment on the possibility that Thatcher might not now lead them into the next election, which she must call by 1988.

So far, only one Conservative MP has called openly for her resignation but others have privately expressed concern that she may be

turning into an electoral liability. Sir Anthony Meyer said at the weekend that the party had to face the fact that the best person to safeguard the achievements of the Thatcher government might not be Thatcher herself.

Meyer said the best solution would be for Thatcher to step down voluntarily, adding: "We must get it out of the way before the summer is over."

The Observer newspaper meanwhile quoted an unnamed minister as predicting that Thatcher would retire within a year, citing a recurrence of an old eye problem that required surgery in 1983.

Thatcher supporters have indirectly acknowledged the strength of the speculation about her future by vigorously denying that there is a move to oust her.

Conservative MP Geoffrey Dickens was quoted as telling a meeting at Westminster: "When the time does come for her to go, it will be her own decision and we very much want her to lead us through the next election. It is absolute rubbish and nonsense to suggest there is this feeling now for her to go."

Conservatives believed a week ago that Thatcher had weathered the Westland storm, a row over whether a U.S.-led consortium or an all-European rival should rescue Britain's sole and ailing helicopter maker.

Her assurances in the House of Commons that she had no prior knowledge of the government's support at the end of an emergency debate.

Since then two new factors have emerged to shake their confidence.

Firstly, an opinion poll conducted immediately after her Commons speech indicated that up to two-thirds of voters did not believe her account of the leak affair.

Then, last Thursday, her government barred three officials at the centre of the affair from giving evidence to a House of Commons defence committee investigation, prompting opposition charges of a cover-up.

On the same day, former Trade Minister Leon Brittan appeared before the committee but refused to answer questions about the leak, which involved a January 6

letter from senior government law officer Sir Patrick Mayhew to the defence minister, Michael Heseltine.

The committee, comprising seven Conservative and three opposition Labour MPs, was this week negotiating with government officials on gaining access to the officials.

They want to question Colette Bowe, chief information officer of the Trade Department, who was named in parliament as having leaked the letter to the press with Britain's authorisation.

They also want to question Bernard Ingham, Thatcher's press secretary, whom Bowe consulted before the letter was leaked.

Thatcher has acknowledged that she prompted Mayhew to write the letter. It was critical of Heseltine's role in promoting a European rescue operation for the ailing Westland company contrary to the wishes of the rest of the cabinet.

She also acknowledged the urgency of making its contents public. But she denies she knew of the leak.

If evidence emerged that Tha-

ther did have prior knowledge of the leak, she would have no option but to resign immediately.

In the absence of such evidence, her credibility has still been severely damaged. Since Heseltine resigned on January 9, accusing Thatcher of trying to silence him, her alleged autocratic style of government has been under fire.

Her own personal standing in the opinion polls has suffered — in the latest survey she no longer rated as the voters' first choice as prime minister — and her party now stands in third place after Labour and the centrist alliance.

Her government's standing will be tested at a by-election in the London constituency of Fallowley within a few months. The Conservatives look almost certain to lose the marginal seat.

A bigger test will come in May when municipal councils, run on parliamentary party lines, come up for reelection.

Even if Thatcher overcame the immediate threat of the Westland affair, bad showing at the polls might increase pressure on her to quit.

She might face a showdown at

the party's annual conference in October, with a contender emerging to contest her leadership.

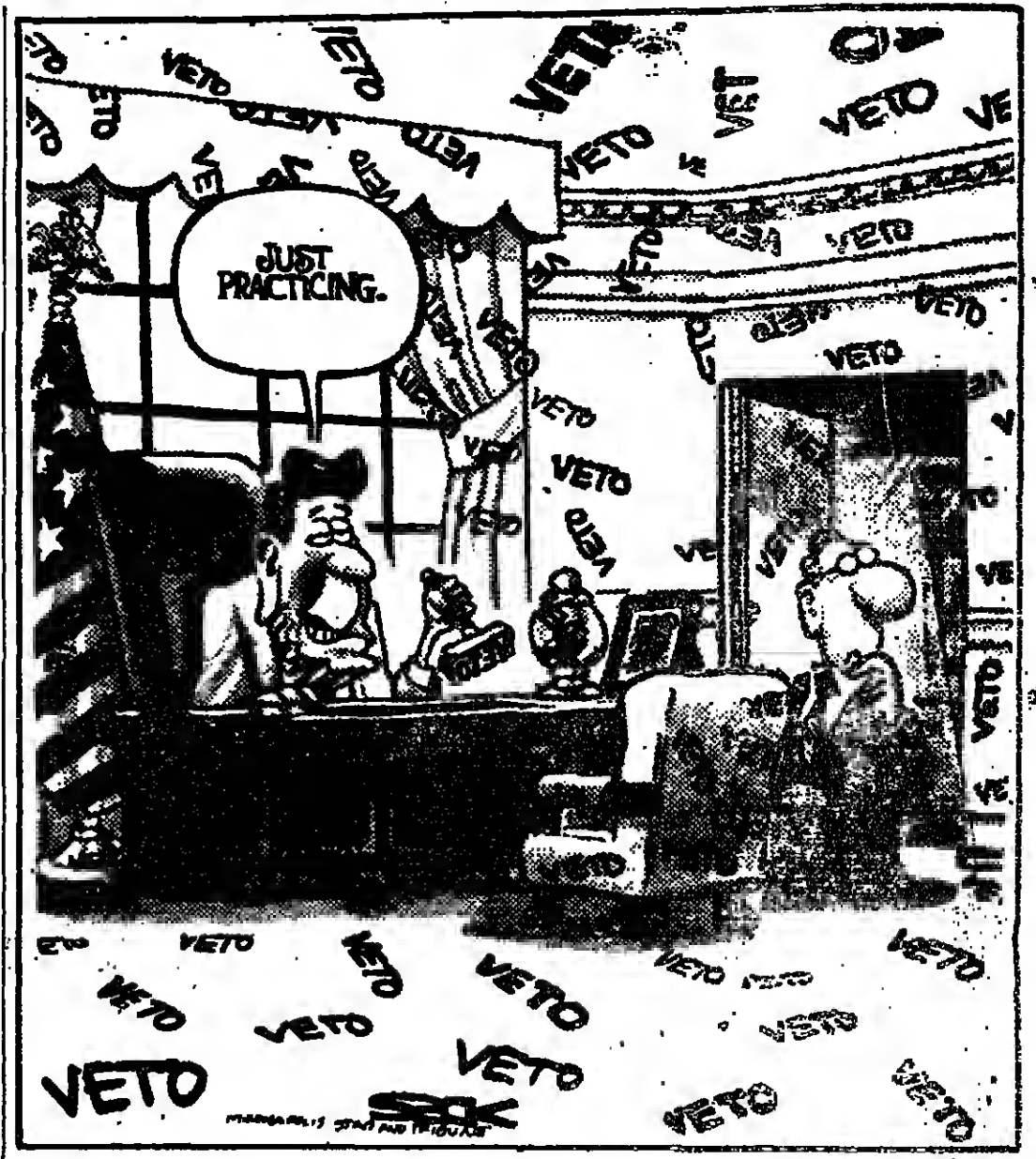
Political analysts believe it is in the nature of the Conservative Party to avoid such a confrontation. If the party's elder statesmen discerned an overwhelming groundswell against her, they would encourage her to step down, or "baed her the loaded gun," as one commentator put it.

Soundings among Conservative MPs have indicated that party chairman Norman Tebbit would be her most likely successor.

But there are doubts over his health as he continues to receive treatment for the injuries he sustained in a 1984 Irish guerrilla bomb attack on Thatcher and her cabinet.

In recent weeks, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd has been singled out in the press as a possible successor.

He is not tainted by association with the Westland row and reminded Thatcher during the crisis of the need to abide by the tradition of joint cabinet responsibility for running the country's affairs.



Chirac sets whirlwind pace in French election campaign

By John Morrison
Reuter

LILLE, France — If energy alone was enough to win a French election campaign, then Jacques Chirac's rivals could give up the unequal struggle.

With nearly six weeks still to go until the vote for a new national assembly on March 16, the 53-year-old Gaullist opposition leader is already in top gear.

Squeezing his lanky frame into a small business jet on a frosty morning, Chirac radiates a zest for the campaign battle that few politicians can match. "Where are we off to today?" he asks an aide.

By the end of the day, long after midnight, he will have been speaking into a succession of microphones for around five hours.

On the half-hour flight from Paris to the Channel Port of Calais, he whips his dossier out of his case but then puts them away with equal speed in order to exchange the latest political gossip with three accompanying journalists.

The day's foray is into enemy territory — France's industrial north where Communists and Socialists have dominated the political landscape for decades.

First stop is Calais Airport and a welcome from girls in traditional lace bonnets. Then Chamber of Commerce President Henri Ravisse briefs him on the economic disaster the port will face when the Channel tunnel begins operations in 1993.

Chirac thanks Ravisse but makes no promises. Away speeds the motorcade through the winding backstreets of the town where he opens a local office of his RPR movement in two minutes flat.

"Look at that church," he tells a British reporter. "That's where general de Gaulle was married, and it's the only Tudor style church in France."

Next stop is a lace factory whose clattering 100-year-old looms turn out the traditional sexy trimmings for French lingerie.

Chirac dashes across the cutting shop, shaking hands vigorously with the female workforce before bouncing back into his car.

In Communist-ruled Calais the town hall is not available, so RPR militants have draped a local cinema with tricolour flags for the party leader's meeting with local businessmen.

Chirac's message is simple: France is in decline, its economy is in shambles because of the Socialist government and only a massive victory of the rightwing opposition can lead it back to recovery.

He forestalls hostile questions about the Channel link to England by saying he supports it, though he is careful to say he cannot make a judgment on the choice of project announced last month.

Asked by a candidate from the extreme right-wing National Front to justify his support for the 1981 Socialist abolition of the death penalty, Chirac admits he is in a minority within his own party, but defends his stand on ethical grounds.

He appeals to RPR supporters not to waste their votes on the National Front in the March 16 elections, telling them the anti-immigrant far right damages France's image in the world.

Those who know Chirac well say his aggressive, ruthless image conceals one of France's most human, soft-hearted politicians. Occasionally the public mask slips, but not for long.

Chirac promises his audience of traders and small businessmen a "clean break with Socialism" after the election, with lower taxes and freedom from price and exchange controls.

He accuses the government of delaying price rises to make its inflation record look better than it is. The punchline comes when he tells his audience: "The price of a ride on the Paris metro is going to go up — on March 17."

His lunchtime audience, which includes several hundred farmers, gets a similar pep-talk, laced with denunciations of "scandalous" European Community milk quotas.

Chirac, his schedule running late, has no time for lunch and has a sandwich in his car as the motorcade speeds through the rain-soaked flat fields to his next engagement.

After kissing a pretty woman at a supermarket and shaking countless hands in the Lille suburbs, he speeds off to a Gaullist town hall for a news conference and another meeting with businessmen.

The message is the same — a dose of liberalism for the economy, and a cut in high taxes and social charges which "have turned France into a Socialist state."

But his liberalism has its limits. He assures a worried small shopkeeper that as mayor of Paris for nine years he has not allowed the building of a single large supermarket.

For the third or fourth time that day, he talks about the price of the Paris metro ticket, which he says the government has decided to raise in price — dramatic pause — on March 17.

Next stop is a local radio station for an interview and a cold buffet dinner at which Chirac can relax for an hour, eating and telling wacors at his usual breakfast speed.

Then comes the highpoint of the day, a rally in Socialist-ruled Lille where thousands of RPR militants chant Chirac's name as he enters the hall.

Maurice Schumann, one of de Gaulle's wartime followers and one of his closest ministerial aides in the 1960s, warns up the audience with an appeal to the historic Gaullist tradition of "a certain idea of France."

Reminding his audience that Lille was the General's birthplace, Schumann hails Chirac as a worthy successor to the dead leader "who watches but does not sleep."

Another historic Gaullist figure, Alain Chauland, who heads the local RPR list of candidates, delivers a personal eulogy of Chirac as "a man of character and courage" and "a man of the heart, devoted to his friends."

For impresario of little circus, life under big top means forever

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Had he run away with the circus, Howard Tibbals would not have been a clown, lion trainer, trapeze artist, or even a ringmaster.

What enchanted him from the age of 7 — when he first watched one of the great circus trains roll into a West Virginia town during a visit to his grandparents in the summer of '43 — was how "a great big monster of an organization, 1,500 people and all those animals, could move into a vacant lot one day, set up all those tents, put on a show for several thousand patrons, and the next day it would all be gone. It was unbelievable! I still can't believe it," he says at age 49.

If Howard Tibbals had joined the circus, he probably would have been the train boss or the transportation chief. Even better, he says, "the layout foreman, the man who went to the lot the day before, decided where everything was to go, and put the coloured flags down as markers."

Circus 'rough life'

Tibbals, now one of the country's largest manufacturers of parquet flooring, never traveled with the circus, he says, because he realized that although it looked like fun, it was really "a very rough life."

Instead, he has spent 30 years of spare time in his hometown of Oneida, Tenn., carving and collecting nearly a million pieces to create his own miniature circus world. Howard Bros. Circus, the "Biggest Little Show on Earth," captures the 1930s golden era of Ringling under the Big Top.

"No circus inside a building ever interested me," he explains. "They're just smelly ice shows." In the travelling Howard Bros. Circus, it is forever a life of sawdust and canvas.

Sitting under the 35-foot-long Big Top that he sewed himself, Tibbals puts the finishing touches

on a new set, gold and white "living statues," for the circus' seven-month run of free performances at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., from Dec. 5 through June 1986.

Like the real circuses that paraded through Tibbals' boyhood, his own Howard Bros. Circus is a masterpiece of organization — and magic. It arrives by model train, sitting neatly into 122 wagons on 47 flatbed and stock cars. It features everything from the Big Top and a travelling zoo to sideshows, midway, concession stands, back lot, dining tent, rehearsal areas, rest tent, and dressing tent.

Authentic to the tiniest detail and accurate to three-quarters-of-an-inch-to-the-foot scale, the miniature circus requires 15,000 stakes, nearly five miles of rigging cord, seating for 850 in the dining tent, 6,000 individual knives, forks, and spoons, and 1,300 to 1,400 employees, from performers to roustabouts.

Realism real challenge

Authenticity, that's the challenge, Tibbals says. And just like its real-life counterparts, his circus is constantly growing, adding acts and animals, changing costumes, and improving equipment and facilities.

"I never quit," Tibbals says, working as he talks. "If I'm building a circus wagon, I go to sleep looking at photographs of old wagons. I keep them on the night stand beside me. Everything I see I wonder, 'Where can I use this?'"

In his hands, hundreds of thin-like salt and pepper shakers saved from airline meals have been transformed into blue water buckets for the circus. Domes-shaped slider caps from deodorant sticks have been turned upside-down for the bottoms of steam kettles in the cookhouse. Velvet red catails from a flower shop are plumes for circus horses. Small metal caps from cans of floor wax double as feeding pans for ani-



Howard Tibbals didn't run away with the circus as a boy. He started creating his own. For the past 30 years, he has been carving and collecting hundreds of thousands of pieces to stage the "Biggest Little Show on Earth." Headquartered in his hometown of Oneida, Tenn.,

the travelling miniature Howard Bros. Circus is playing at the National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall in Washington, D.C., through June 1986.

mals.

What Tibbals can't buy or carve, paint, and make himself, he designs and commissions for production. For example, the 7,000 individual folding chairs for spectators in the Big Top are miniature replicas of Ringling chairs. To get exact measurements, he studied old photographs, using a magnifying glass to count the chairs, dividing the number into the tent's known dimensions.

Howard Tibbals has put his boyhood dreams into the Big Top. A seven-year-old's version was one of the first circus structures he

made in his grandparents' yard in Fairmont, W. Va. He cut up his grandmother's old sheets and tied them with bits of string from his grandfather's homemade ball of twine. He used lollipop and Pop-sicle sticks and toy trucks. "I'd play circus all summer," he recalls.

Back lot sneak

During summers in high school, Tibbals would hitch a ride on one of his father's flooring-company trucks to catch up with a circus in Columbus, Ohio. He took along a camera and spent all day soaking

about the back lot.

Finally in college, while studying word technology and engineering at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, he came upon the best miniature circus he had ever seen, its creator, Harold Dunn, was so impressed with Tibbals' interest and enthusiasm that the two began an association that continues today.

Howard Tibbals wasn't born with the circus in his blood. None of his ancestors ever joined one, he says, and none of his six children shows any interest in circuses. His house, he admits, had

become a three-ring circus until he built a 40-foot-by-25-foot climate-controlled addition to store his creations and his collection of real circus memorabilia — a half-million photographs, 7,500 posters, programmes, booklets, and heralds, and more than 1,000 books.

Tibbals blames his circus passion on life in a rural community of 3,000 in northern Tennessee near the Kentucky line. "There's nothing to do in that town. It forced me to have a desire to do something head-on just the family-flooding business."

Portable satellite terminal opens new communications front

By Brian Mooney
Reuters

LONDON — Think of the remotest part of the world — the top of Everest, the middle of the Sahara — and imagine sending and receiving instant messages there with no telephone, no radio and no telex. It can now be done.

An international group based in London has developed a portable satellite terminal which it says can transmit and receive written text just about anywhere in the world.

"This will work anywhere provided there is an unimpeded view to a satellite, either in the open or by a window," the designer Hans Christian Haugli told Reuters.

Haugli developed the system, which fits into a briefcase, with a team of fellow engineers at the London headquarters of the International Maritime Satellite Organisation, INMARSAT.

For journalists working off base, faced with the constant prob-

blem of having to find a telephone or telex to get their stories out, the system has awesome potential.

They could report directly and instantaneously from remote war fronts, earthquake-stricken cities, or strife-torn areas without even thinking about a telephone.

Businessmen, likewise, could have access to their desk-top computers or market reports wherever they are, on an Indian Ocean beach or a yacht cruising in the Mediterranean.

Haugli's system, known simply as "Standard C", consists of a box the size of a large detergent pack with an omni-directional antenna bulging out of a plastic bubble at one end. It connects to a small battery pack and a mini computer keyboard.

Including batteries, the set weighs 11.5 kilograms.

"We are not aware of anyone else who has built something so small for civil use," Haugli, a 30-year-old Norwegian, said.

The next size up in satellite ter-

minals packs into two large suitcases.

"Most people think of satellite terminals as large, heavy and bulky. INMARSAT set out to show that it is possible to make something small and easily portable," Haugli explained.

INMARSAT was set up in 1979 as an intergovernmental agency to create a global satellite communications system for shipping.

It now has 44 member nations, which include the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and Japan, and is developing a second generation of satellites capable of handling aviation as well as maritime communications.

INMARSAT operates satellites for both private companies and national telecommunications authorities.

It runs on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by members in proportion to their use of the satellites which cover virtually the entire globe apart from the North and South Poles.

INMARSAT's Swedish director general Olof Lundberg told Reuters the group would spend \$1 billion on up to nine new satellites planned to go into orbit in the next decade.

One of the many spinoffs from development of an aeronautical network will be a system that will enable airline passengers to make telephone calls or key into their personal computers while flying anywhere in the world except over the polar icecaps.

This is the sort of service currently available through INMARSAT's maritime communications network which provides voice, data and facsimile links to 4,000 ships and oil rigs worldwide.

Lundberg said he ultimately envisaged very large ships in the world connecting into the system.

He saw similar growth potential in aeronautics, a sector which INMARSAT was only cleared to enter at its annual conference last

October.

Satellite networks would provide airlines with improved communications for weather, routing and traffic reports in areas where conventional radio reception is poor.

Instructions and information from ground computers could be relayed to aircraft in flight, Lundberg said.

Computers on board airlines could also be linked via satellites to earth stations, making flight recorders virtually redundant by providing a ground monitor of all information stored in them, Lundberg added.

INMARSAT says satellite communications are expanding fast in part because systems are beginning to cost less. Terminals on ships which started out a few years ago at \$70,000 are now down to as little as \$20,000.

The "Standard C" portable terminal would cost about \$5,000 in its present form which Haugli

said could be improved.

"We were not trying to develop a commercial product. We just wanted to demonstrate the concept," Haugli said.

The battery pack, which weighs five kilos for example, could be made smaller and more powerful, he said.

The dry cell batteries currently provide sufficient power for two hours of transmission or eight hours of reception.

"If you couldn't recharge you could operate the system from a car battery," Haugli said.

The designer said there was nothing revolutionary about his system, except the size.

"We used off-the-shelf technology," he explained.

Under present international regulations, the system would require a licence to operate in many countries. Experts say some governments would regard it as a serious threat to state control of telecommunications.

Police step up hunt for elusive Green River killer

By John Hessburg
Reuters

SEATTLE — The skulls, skeletal remains and other bits of evidence have surfaced in scattered locations in two states, discovered by a variety of people — an explorer scout on a hike, a teacher out for a walk with two students, a cemetery worker and others.

The first bodies turned up in the summer of 1982, floating in the Green River south of Seattle, and the most recent remains were found a few weeks ago near a cemetery in the Seattle suburb of Auburn.

So far the dead total 34 women — many of them linked to prostitution and all believed slain by a murderer dubbed the "Green River killer." Police have a list of another 11 missing young women and girls they fear may also be victims.

Seattle police Captain Frank Adamson, head of a task force try-

ing to track down the killer, said in an interview that detectives have cleared 231 potential suspects since 1984, and questioned or investigated scores of other people.

Although the killer is still at large, Adamson says his task force is making progress in sifting through the massive amount of information that has burdened it for several years.

Nine full-time clerks are expected to be hired this year to process the mountains of data. Their tools will include a 200,000-dollar computer purchased specifically for the task.

Detectives have collected 6,500 pieces of evidence, including about 600 sets of fingerprints, Adamson said.

"We do not feel at wit's end. We feel there is a lot of progress," he added.

He and his Seattle investigators got a big boost in January when the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) assigned 10 agents permanently to the case, joining 46 local officers already try-

ing to solve it.

The fact that many of the victims were prostitutes who had no strong family ties has complicated the investigation. Most of them worked a strip of hotels near the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The FBI first became interested in the Green River killer in the summer of 1984, after the bodies of two women were discovered near Portland, Oregon, five hours' drive south of Seattle.

Investigators decided there was a strong likelihood that the victims in Washington State and Oregon had been killed by the same person, adding the possibility of interstate crime — a federal offence — to the mystery.

Before the FBI was called in, women's groups had asserted that the murders were not being taken seriously because many of the victims were prostitutes.

Authorities in King County, embracing Seattle, have budgeted \$2.3 million for this year towards solving the case. Another \$1

million is earmarked for the nine clerks.

The amount spent on the case by the end of the year will total more than \$10 million.

Task force member Lieutenant Jackson Beard said that in the latest find, in Auburn, there was evidence of three bodies. In the past, the killer has dumped up to six bodies at a time in clusters at remote sites.

Of the remains that have been identified, the victim who disappeared most recently was a Seattle teenager last seen in early 1984.

Police refuse to say much about the modus operandi of the killer for fear of tipping him off about how much they have learned.

Oregon State police published a drawing in November of a possible suspect, based on a description by a teenager who said a man had picked her up in a Portland suburb. She said he tried to strangle her, then left her for dead.

Police said the assailant was a white male in his 20s.

Australia's richest man aims for the biggest prize of all

By Francis Daniel
Reuters

SYDNEY — Robert Holmes A Court, attempting to pull off Australia's biggest corporate coup, says his pursuit is not wealth but success.

At 48, he has already established himself as the richest man in the land. He now wants the largest prize, Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. (BHP).

He sent shock waves through the investing and financial community here and abroad on Feb. 4 when he launched a \$1.4 billion bid for the giant conglomerate.

The directors of BHP, a vast steel, building, engineering, min-

erals and oil group, poured scorn on his offer, advising their shareholders to drop it like a hot potato.

Holmes A Court, who likes to project the view that there is no magic in business, appears unperturbed. He told the BHP board he would forgive them but made clear that the battle is far from over.

Holmes A Court already has nearly 19 per cent of BHP through his Bell group of companies, which has interests in media, entertainment, transport, quarrying, concrete, oil and gas exploration.

His bid, if successful, would increase his stake to 40 per cent and make him the biggest shareholder

in a company which employs 50,000 people in three states and remains a major engine of growth for Australia's economy.

Investment analysts cautioned against discounting Holmes A Court, who has managed to garner a 2.5 billion dollar (\$1.8 billion U.S.) line of credit for his assault.

Holmes A Court, whose personal wealth is estimated at over 300 million dollars (210 million U.S.), has proved himself a corporate genius, building up Bell from a debt-ridden company in the 1970s to a substantial multinational today.

Bell recorded a profit of 65.7 million dollars (46 million U.S.) in the 1984-85 financial year on a

turnover of more than 700 million (490 million U.S.).

Holmes A Court has earned a reputation for bidding for companies and bowing out with a profit when he failed in takeover battles — as with Australia's domestic airline Ansett, the livestock, food and beverages giant Elders, and Britain's Rolls-Royce.

Yet he told a leading financial journalist: "Money is not an end in itself and personal money is an illusory thing. You do not need very much, really, nobody does."

Holmes A Court, a soft-spoken tycoon who dislikes being known as a risk-taking corporate raider, is full of self-confidence.

JTV preview

John Boteler, alias JTV previewer, had an accident on Wednesday night which has confined him to bed. While his column will not appear this week we hope Johnny will soon appear in person at the Jordan Times and that his column will appear next week.

Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, combats its slums

KYOTO, Japan — Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital and tourist Mecca that more than 408,000 foreigners visited in 1984, has vowed to finally bury the skeleton in its closet.

Because of its irreplaceable historic and art treasures, Kyoto was one of the few Japanese cities that was not bombed during World War II. The city was established in 794 A.D. and was the home for the Imperial court until 1868.

It is dotted with about 1,600 temples and hundreds of Shinto shrines, many of which either house or are themselves national treasures.

All is not traditional beauty and splendor in Kyoto, however. Four districts along the city's East 9th Street, south of Kyoto Station, consist of wooden tenements and a labyrinth of narrow lanes and dead-end alleys.

Originally built to accommodate trash collectors and hired help, rooms in the tenements are only 9 square yards, with common sanitary facilities along dimly lit hallways. In the early part of the century the area became the home for indigents.

In the immediate post-war years, warehouses and cubby holes were hastily partitioned to house swarms of homeless people.

At the time of the 1965 national census, there were 63,603 inhabitants to a square kilometre, exceeding Osaka's notorious Aikyo slum area by 5,000 people per square kilometre. Although by 1980 the population density of the East 9th Street area decreased by half, it was still 15 times that of the rest of Kyoto.

Fifteen and a half per cent of the area's population is over 65 years

old, compared with 10.5 per cent for the rest of the city. Nearly 30 per cent of the inhabitants are of Korean ancestry.

With a huge national athletic meet scheduled in Kyoto in 1988 and the city's 1200th anniversary in 1994, the south exit of Kyoto Station is to become the main "gate" of the city. A shopping mall and a new hotel are scheduled to open this spring across from the station. But redevelopment has not penetrated the district, only a few hundred yards away.

After a major fire in August 1967, the late Mayor Tomii appointed Professor Jyoji Ogura of Doshisha University to recommend improvements that could be made during the mayor's term in office.

A public bath house and nursery were built, a public service officer was assigned to the area, fire alarms were installed and some of the shabby tenements were torn down to accommodate a 2,000-square-metre fire-escape plaza.

Last year, Ogura and Professor Hiroshi Minura of Kyoto University, who say the metropolitan government has had a "do-nothing" attitude in the last 20 years, made new recommendations. Based on these, the government is to make its proposal public by the middle of this year and it should include plans for alternate housing and subsidised loans.

City officials say that this time the city is determined to succeed in making its back door cleaner, safer and more presentable for the coming years. — Asahi News Service feature.

Glue sniffing takes hold in western societies

By Thomas Vinsor Wolgast

Children suffer carboxyhaemoglobin as a result of their brains slowly shrinking.

A 15-year-old boy in the intensive care unit of a Hamburg hospital who died after sniffing glue was asked whether he had now had enough, and was prepared to give it up.

He told the doctor he wasn't sure, but would probably do it again.

"So how often or how often like it, and sooner or later I'm going to sniff so much that it finishes me off."

This comment shows what a hard time narcotics consultants and welfare workers have in dealing with addiction both among hard drug addicts, who are mostly adults, and with kids who simply sniff glue.

The boy was quoted at a municipal youth department conference in Hamburg on how to help sniffers. Education, counselling, teachers, social workers and police officers spent two days discussing the subject.

It is an addiction that has been known to exist for years and regularly led to headlines such as "Child Choked to Death in Plastic Bag" but clearly has yet to be statistically and scientifically covered.

Statistics on glue sniffing, officially known as solvent abuse, are virtually non-existent. Dr. Rainer Thomsen, who has dealt with the subject for years, told the conference detailed figures on the extent of addiction were not available.

All that was known was that it occurred in all Western industrialised countries and in a number of East Block countries too.

The reason for this non-availability of statistics is that most child and juvenile sniffers go unnoticed. They only come to light as a result of unusual behaviour such as acting people on the street, being caught stealing or suddenly losing consciousness.

So no figures were nonetheless quoted, mainly from the United States and West Berlin, where glue sniffing presents the authorities with particularly acute problems.

In the United States an estimated seven million children and juveniles sniff now and then. In Berlin there are an estimated 2,000 chronic addicts.

Berlin sniffers are said to use between 125 and 1,000 grams of glue, solvent or other substance a day.

They are aged seven to 17, and they have been sniffing for between three months and 10 years.

Between 1972 and 1981 fifty-two deaths due to sniffing were registered by the Bundeskriminalamt, or Federal CID, in Wiesbaden.

The Hamburg conference was told that although more recent figures are not available, addiction is definitely on the increase.

Children and young people choke to death with their heads in plastic bags because the fumes they inhale make them lose consciousness.

Children suffer carboxyhaemoglobin as a result of their brains slowly shrinking.

A wide range of substances is used by sniffers. They are substances found in every home and can be bought inexpensively in virtually any shop.

They include glues, thinner, paint, nail varnish and stain remover, deodorant and even petrol. They all contain substances that have a hallucinatory effect, such as alcohol, esters, aromatic hydrocarbons and nitrites.

A relative newcomer is spray-can gas, which reduces the oxygen count in air breathed and has an effect similar to that of altitude sickness in the mountains.

Dr. Thomsen distinguished between various stages of sniffing. First comes a stage of excitement, then optic and acoustic changes in the perceived environment, i.e. hallucinations.

At this stage sniffers may see a garden hose as a writhing snake and a murky stream as a gleaming gold river or hear a chorus of trumpets rather than the sound of car horns blaring.

Most sniffers develop "under the influence" a sense of euphoria and superiority out of all relation to their true situation.

They may feel they are suspended in mid-air and other people are only a few inches tall.

So no sniffers, he said, saw themselves as on a par with comic strip heroes such as Superman and accordingly took leave of the real world and the difficulties it presented.

Sniffing glue isn't the minor offence many young people feel it is. Kids in particular have little or no idea of the health hazard posed by regular or excessive sniffing. The chemicals inhaled have a detrimental effect on the central nervous system and destroy inner organs such as the kidneys, liver and heart.

The destruction of brain cells leads to what the medical process of progressive dementia and can cause paralysis of the legs and arms.

Typical symptoms that ought to be heeded by parents and teachers are disturbance of equilibrium, slow speech, eye fluttering, numbness and apathy to the point of unconsciousness, euphoria and, in advanced states, the shakes and chronic inflammation of the mouth and nose.

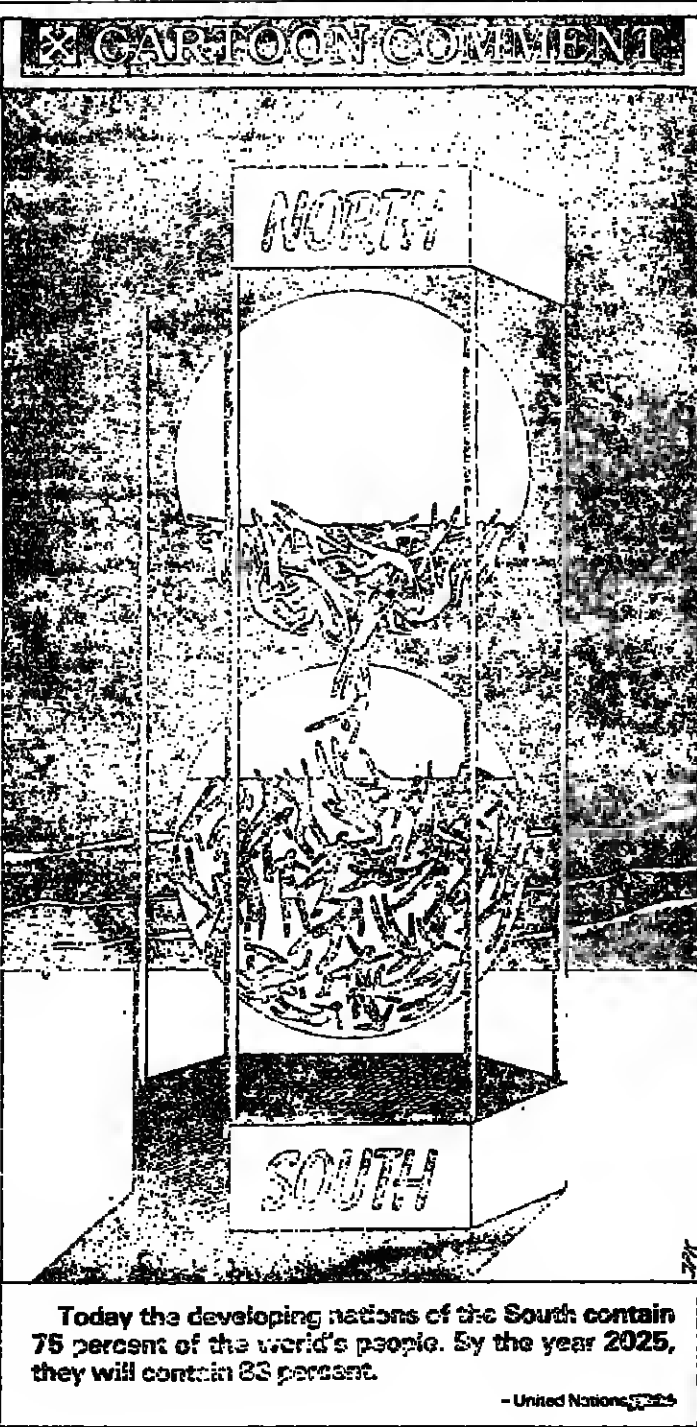
Nearly all sniffers are lower-class, the Hamburg gathering revealed. They almost always come from problem families and lack material and, above all, emotional support.

Many youngsters later switch from sniffing glue to taking hard drugs.

Charlotte Koettgen, head of the Hamburg labour and welfare department's youth psychology and psychiatry service, says sniffers are "children without a lobby."

"Their parents often have problems of their own to face and cannot as a rule be expected to be much help."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



New Zealand yacht sails to upset in 12-metre race

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Skipper Chris Dickson steered his radical fiberglass yacht New Zealand to a stunning upset Friday in the first race of the World 12-Metre Sailing Championships.

Dickson led from start to finish, staving off a last-minute challenge from John Kolijs at the helm of the New York Yacht Club's America II, which finished 19 seconds behind after clawing back 13 seconds in a fierce tacking duel on the final leg of the race.

Australia II and Australia III battled it out for third place. Australia II, the boat that won the America's Cup for Australia in 1983, narrowly took third place, 1 minute, 18 seconds behind America II. The finish was subject to a series of protests to be heard by the race committee.

The white-hulled New Zealand surprised yachtsmen with its speed on all points of sailing in winds that started at 14 knots and gusts up to 19 during the race.

The winning boat and an identical 12-metre are the first to be built in New Zealand and the first in the world ever constructed of fiberglass. All the other 12s in the 14-boat fleet are made of aluminum.

The second New Zealand boat finished well back in ninth place.

Everton hopes to enlarge its lead

LONDON (R) — Champions Everton expect to welcome back four key players from injury for Saturday's trip to Watford as they attempt to consolidate their lead in the English First Division.

England striker Gary Lineker, Scotland forward Graeme Sharp, centre back Kevin Ratcliffe and winger Kevin Sheedy all missed the midweek Super Cup draw at Tottenham to stay at Goodison Park for treatment for their niggling injuries.

The move seems to have worked and, with midfielder Paul Bracewell also recovering well, Everton are returning to full-strength at just the right time to build on the one-point lead they took over Manchester United last weekend.

Everton's surge to the top after

an undistinguished start to the season is reminiscent of their form last season when they eventually won the championship by a street.

But Watford, with England's John Barnes in superb form, are a formidable force at home and they received a welcome boost by reaching the fifth round of the F.A. Cup Thursday night, beating Manchester City 3-1.

United, who have played one game less than Everton, will give new signing Terry Gibson his first full game in their televised match against Liverpool on Sunday.

Striker Gibson, who cost £580,000 from Coventry, will play in attack instead of Denmark's Jesper Olsen, who will move back to midfield to replace captain Bryan Robson.

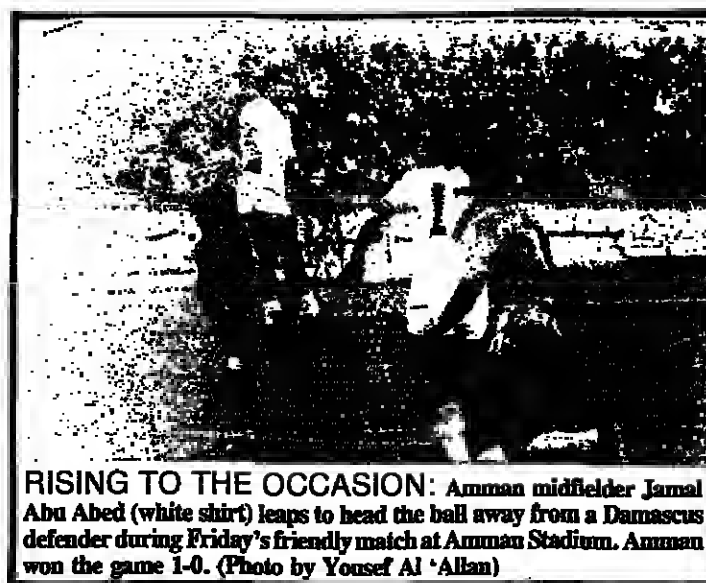
Robson is suspended for two

games following his sending off against Sunderland in the F.A. Cup fourth round.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish is expected to resume his place on the trainers' bench, despite a fine goal against Norwich in the midweek Super Cup game, if Ian Rush recovers in time from a thigh injury.

Chelsea will still be without their strikers Kerry Dixon, who is injured, and David Speedie (suspended) for their home game with Oxford.

Heavy snow in many parts of the country and low temperatures — the temperature in London was expected to fall as low as minus 10 degrees Celsius Friday night — could result in a large number of postponements Saturday.



RISE TO THE OCCASION: Amman midfielder Jamal Abu Abed (white shirt) jumps to head the ball away from a Damascus defender during Friday's friendly match at Amman Stadium. Amman won the game 1-0. (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Witherspoon may lose WBA heavyweight title

NEW YORK (R) — A top official of the World Boxing Association said Thursday that Tim Witherspoon may be stripped of his heavyweight title because he used marijuana before winning the crown from Tony Tubbs.

Should the WBA take such action, the title would revert to Tubbs, according to Alberto Aleman, chairman of the WBA's Championship Committee.

In a telephone interview from the WBA offices in Panama City, Aleman told Reuters that the WBA expected to make a decision in about two weeks.

Ipswich falls to West Ham

LONDON (R) — West Ham finally secured their English Football Association (F.A.) Cup fifth round place against Manchester United Thursday — 321 minutes into their fourth round tie against Ipswich.

Tony Cottee's 16th goal of the season in the 21st minute of extra time in the second replay earned the Londoners a shot at the Cup holders after a goalless 90 minutes.

Cottee, who hit the winner in West Ham's 2-1 league victory over United on Sunday, pounced on the only mistake by Ipswich's tireless midfielder Mark Brennan.

Cottee, who equalised in the 1-1 replay on Tuesday, evaded goalkeeper Paul Cooper and full-back Steve McCall and maintained his five-match record of scoring at Ipswich.

"If we strip Witherspoon, Tubbs should get the title back," he said.

Aleman said he had asked the Georgia State Boxing Commission to forward to the WBA Championship Committee all documentation relating to drug tests administered immediately after the fight, which was staged in Atlanta.

"We then will consult with our doctor, Keith Arthur, and make a determination," he said.

Witherspoon said Wednesday that traces of marijuana found in his urine right after the January 17 fight apparently were from marijuana he had smoked at a party in late November.

However, the chief physician for the Georgia commission said it was extremely unlikely that marijuana would remain in a person's body for that long.

Brazil sees salvation in Santana

By Sergio Leite
Rauer

RIO DE JANEIRO — While most coaches tend to discuss football in terms of commitment, work rate and character, Tele Santana uses words such as ballet, artistry and passion.

That is why soccer romantics are celebrating his return as manager of the Brazilian World Cup squad — a job he swore never to take again following the shock 3-2 defeat against eventual winners Italy four years ago.

Santana, 54, fully realises that being national team manager is widely regarded as the second most important post in Brazil after president. Nor will he have forgotten how he was reviled when his 1982 Brazilians returned home from Spain.

Hero one day, villain the next, Santana had his copacabana flat in Rio De Janeiro stoned by irate fans while his wife Ivonete was plagued by a stream of insulting telephone calls.

The 1982 tournament lost much of its magic when the Brazilians departed and Santana summed up the feelings of all when he said: "Before the Italy game, we had already been crowned champions by fans dazzled by our skills. Our defeat was an accident."

But to a country reared on the legends of Pele, Didi and Garrincha, mere words could never relieve the pain.

Brazil are the only nation to have qualified for every tournament since the World Cup began in 1930 and their record is etched on the minds of the millions of youngsters who dream of pulling on the number 10 shirt made famous by Pele.

World champions in 1958, 1962 and 1970, runners-up in 1950, third in 1938 and 1978, fourth in 1974; ironically, they finished only fifth in Spain, though they won four games in thrilling fashion and suffered just one defeat.

Brazil will make few alterations to their planning of 16 years ago when they became outright winners of the original Jules Rimet Trophy by beating Italy 4-1 in the final in Mexico City.

It seems likely that the team will fly to Mexico in early May and spend three weeks in Guanajuato for altitude acclimatisation.

Attracted by the charisma of Pele, Tostao, Rivelino, Jairzinho and Gerson, Mexican fans adopted Brazil in 1970 and the fortunes of their own national team were largely ignored.

Inspired by such backing, Brazil played with the same joyful abandon they sometimes reserve for Rio's 200,000 capacity Maracana Stadium and the world held its breath in admiration.

Whether Santana's 1986 Brazilians play with the same wizardry and invention remains to be seen, but he does have over three months to put together a team capable of beating Spain in their opening game in Guadalajara on June 1.

The big question is just what line-up Santana has in mind.

Will he recall his 1982 veterans, as he did for the qualifying ties against Bolivia and Paraguay last year, or will he bring in new blood to combine talent and experience

with physical fitness? Critics say the likes of Zico, Socrates and Falcao are too old to cope with the rarified atmosphere in Mexico, but Santana is unlikely to jettison such unique talents because of the dates on their birth certificates.

"I'm certainly not worried about age... for each game I will field the best players," said Santana.

There are also fears that 1982 captain Socrates and Zico, both of whom have been out of action since September due to injury, will not be fit in time.

"It's just too soon to predict that... if they prove themselves fit, they will be in my team. If not, they will be replaced. It's as simple as that," added Santana.

But Santana's admiration for his 1982 team remains undiminished and there is every likelihood the veterans of Spain will again comprise the backbone in 1986.

The Jornal Do Brasil newspaper quoted a close friend of Santana's as saying he may field the following line-up in training: Carlos Leandro, Oscar, Mozer, Branco, Falcao, Socrates, Zico, Renato Gauchao, Casagrande, Tato.

But that may change when Italian exiles Cerezo, Edinho and Junior join the squad some time in April.

Other names almost certain to be included are those of goalkeeper Paulo Victor and strikers Careca and the uncapped Maranhao.

Spend A Buck is named 1985 Horse of the Year

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (R) — Kentucky Derby winner Spend A Buck, the second leading thoroughbred moneywinner of all time, Thursday was named winner of the Eclipse Award as North American Horse of the Year for 1985.

Spend A Buck, who won the Eclipse award as champion 3-year-old colt last month, was a unanimous selection by all three voting bodies — the Thoroughbred Racing Association, the National Turf Writers Association and the Daily Racing Form.

Proud Truth, winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic last November, finished second in the voting. Four other Eclipse Award winners also received strong support. They

were Vandlingham, the 4-year-old colt who was voted the Top Older Horse for 1985; Pebbles, the British filly, named last month as the outstanding Female Turf Runner; Mom's Command, the champion 3-year-old filly; and Precisionist, who was voted the Top Sprinter.

In sweeping the first-place votes of all three groups, Spend A Buck became the first horse since John Henry in 1981 to be a unanimous selection. John Henry, the all-time leading moneywinner, who was retired this year, also was voted Horse of the Year in 1984.

Spend A Buck, now standing at stud in Kentucky, set a single-season earnings record of \$3,552,704 while winning five of seven starts last year.

ANNOUNCEMENT WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN CONTRACTS

9/86/General Contract/Amman

10/86/General Contract/ Greater Amman

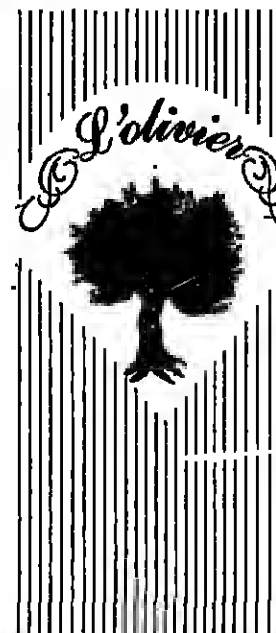
11/86/General Contract/North

Water Authority of Jordan invites contractors from the member countries of the World Bank, Taiwan and Switzerland and the contractors of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified at the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan as general, first and second class water and sewerage and general and first buildings and roads together to submit bids for the installation of small pipes diameter in different areas of the contracts above.

Bids are due not later than 12:00 noon Jordan local time, Sat. March 8th, 1986. Tender documents are available at rate of JD 100 non-refundable.

Foreign contractors are asked to submit pre-qualification data on their firms on or before Feb. 13th 1986 and they will be notified whether to submit a bid or not on Feb. 16th 1986.

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President
Water Authority



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Cinema RAGHADAN
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(Indian)
(Colour)
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4042/52	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4060/70	Canadian dollars
	2.3965/75	West German marks
	2.7060/70	Dutch guilders
	2.0248/58	Swiss francs
	48.99/49.04	Belgian francs
	7.3440/90	French francs
	1631/1632	Italian lire
	190.60/70	Japanese yen
	7.5000/5100	Swedish crowns
	7.4100/4200	Norwegian crowns
	8.7800/7900	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	337.60/338.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed higher on the last day of the account with sentiment helped by steeper sterling, dealers said. They noted some buying for the new account which starts Monday. At 1542 Friday, the FT 30 was 12.5 up at an intra day high of 1,184.2 while the FTSE 100 added 15.6 at 1,442.5.

Midland Bank closed 60p up at 489 after touching 509 following an agreed sale of Crocker National to Wells Fargo at an estimated \$1.08 billion. Lloyds was 18p higher at 467 after 472.

Government bonds steadied at around 1/2 point lower. Golds eased, insurances were higher and North Americans mixed.

ICI ended 3p higher at 822, BOC added 14p to 315 while Glaxo was 20p lower at 860. Imperial Group advanced 14p to 269 awaiting bid developments. Thorn EMI was a net 10p higher at 399. In a firm construction sector, Taylor Woodrow gained 20p to 511.

Distillers rose 20p to 626 after restating its commitment to the agreed merger with Guinness, down 2p at 383 while rival sister Argyll lost 5p to 335.

In mixed oils B.P. at 551 and Shell at 668 were both up 8p.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to wind up whatever activities you have been engaged in and need to be completed during the day, but do so in such a way that you add to such a project a dash of originality.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get personal affairs well handled during the daytime and tonight be with talented persons from whom you can learn much.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to do something to show you are an A-1 citizen, and you can easily impress one who is prominent.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can easily come to a right agreement with a new contact during the daytime, but later seek inspiration elsewhere.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have prophetic insight and can plan the future intelligently. One in business will do you a favor.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Join with partners at some project you are engaged in that is profitable during the day and then tonight pursue personal interests.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day to find a more efficient method for handling routines and get more pleasures out of them also.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into activities that have pleased you in the past and enjoy them and plan to do it more often in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can now handle many tasks at home pleasantly and get good results. Don't neglect to get your marketing done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) See those persons today who can assist you in any way and gain cooperation needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do whatever will make your possessions more valuable and attractive now. Then discuss this with experts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day to state your aims to those who can be of help to you and get right results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have an opportunity to gain your personal wishes, so think and go after them early in the day.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can be quite unusual and different from those around him or her so be sure to send to the right schools so that there can be great success during the lifetime, and even fame could be achieved. Make sure that the diet is right.

Oil ministers review chaotic world situation

CAIRO, Egypt (Agencies) — Oil ministers of Venezuela, Mexico and Egypt met privately Friday on the chaotic world oil situation as oil ministry sources reported a third major Egyptian production cut.

Speaking on condition they not be identified, the sources said Egypt was producing about 570,000 barrels of crude oil daily, 23 per cent below its output of 870,000 barrels just two weeks earlier.

The drop, a third-stage option reserved when a two-tier reduction to 720,000 barrels was announced on Jan. 27, has not been disclosed publicly.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, current chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and his Mexican counterpart Mr. Francisco Labastida Ochoa arrived Friday for a quick arranged meeting with the Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil.

Oil ministry sources said the conference was at the request of the Venezuelan and the Mexican, not Mr. Kandil's, but there was no indication what they wanted from the Egyptians.

On arrival, Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said only that they would be talking about "recent developments in the world market and falling prices."

"They have come to explain their views, and I shall listen to them," Mr. Kandil told reporters.

Neither Mexico nor Egypt is an OPEC member, but both have bowed to the pressure of the current global oil glut with recent significant price cuts.

Both Mexico and Venezuela announced reductions last week after their presidents, Mr. Miguel De La Madrid and Mr. Jaime Lusinchi, agreed at a summit meeting to coordinate pricing strategies.

Egypt earlier had lowered prices of its varying grades of crude by between \$3.50 and \$4.65 a barrel.

That decision was taken simultaneously with the cutting of production, first by 100,000 barrels a day, then an additional 50,000 with an option for the final 50,000 barrels daily that ministry sources said now has been implemented.

It was unclear how many days the new, lower production figure has been in effect.

Although no figures were available, ministry sources said the production cuts were coming mainly from Egypt's exports rather than from oil consumed domestically.

At 870,000 barrels a day, Egypt was exporting about half its production.

Oil is Egypt's second-largest source of hard currency after money sent home by Egyptians working abroad. The market's conditions have caused serious concern within President Hosni Mubarak's debt-laden government because of the precipitous drop in oil receipts the country faces.

Mr. Mubarak said in a late January magazine interview that every drop of \$1 a barrel would cost Egypt \$70 million a year in hard currency, even at production

levels then in effect. Mr. Said Simbol, editor of the state-owned newspaper Al-Akhar who is highly respected for his economic sources, wrote in mid-January that conditions then prevailing would mean a loss to Egypt of \$600 million this year.

Egypt's Economics Minister Sultan Abu Ali, addressed the problem in an interview published Friday. He said steps would have to be taken to compensate for lower oil prices, either by reducing overall imports or increasing petroleum exports.

He prefers the second option. Mr. Abu Ali told the state-owned Al-Akhar newspaper, and it can be done by "cutting our energy consumption."

"We as a people should endure higher prices (for energy), as present domestic prices are far less than prices abroad. Increasing energy prices will reduce consumption, thus making available larger quantities for export," he said.

He said contingency planners also are considering rationing but that he prefers the increased-price route to lower domestic consumption.

Mr. Abu Ali indicated that the collapse of oil prices also will cause problems for Egypt's timely repayment of foreign loans and interest totalling more than \$31 billion.

Asked if there will be an effect on Cairo's ability to pay its debts, he said: "I don't think so... but there may be some delay in (meeting) our commitments. Many countries are in the same boat."

Abu Dhabi adopts new market strategy

Meanwhile, in major policy shift, Abu Dhabi has adopted market-related oil prices to maintain production levels in the face of rapidly declining world prices, industry sources in Abu Dhabi said Thursday.

The move follows similar changes by other members of OPEC from official prices to ones fluctuating with the free, spot market.

The Abu Dhabi decision applies to Japanese contract customers, who take about 90,000 barrels per day (b/d), and to foreign equity partners in Abu Dhabi's main oil companies, who lift about 250,000 b/d. Abu Dhabi's output is about 900,000 b/d.

The emirate, one of seven making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE), had officially adhered to OPEC prices while granting small discounts to some Japanese customers. But Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteibi said in November OPEC members had become free to sell their oil at any price because of cheating.

Saudi Arabia's decision last month to offer market-related deals to Japan, the UAE's main market, and the recent collapse of oil prices made a new policy essential to maintain market share,

the sources said. Abu Dhabi's chief grade, Murban, sold for \$28.15 a barrel at official OPEC prices but Abu Dhabi National Oil Company has now fixed it at \$24.95 for January liftings by Japanese term buyers, in line with January's spot prices.

Tokyo traders Thursday offered Murban for as little as \$18 a barrel, suggesting a new low price will be set retroactively for February.

UAE officials have expressed concern that lower oil revenues will make government projects harder to finance and widen the budget deficit, estimated last year at two dirhams (\$545 million), one-eighth of spending.

Dubai, the second largest emirate in the UAE, has always priced crude oil by the spot market. Industry sources said it sold a cargo Wednesday to a Japanese customer for \$14.50 a barrel, nearly half the price of two months ago.

EC oil bill may go down by one third

For the European Community (EC), a European Commission report published Thursday in Brussels said that slumping oil prices could cut the EC's \$55 billion annual oil bill by up to a third this year but may run its efforts for energy independence.

The report attempts to gauge the impact on European economies of plummeting oil prices — down \$12 in the past month to about \$17 per 159-litre.

Community finance ministers will discuss falling oil prices on Feb. 17, officials said. The drop has caused concern in Britain and The Netherlands, whose government income depends heavily on oil or natural gas revenues, they said.

The report showed that crude oil prices of around \$20 barrel would sharply reduce companies' energy costs and could raise the 12-nation group's economic growth rate to 3.4 per cent this year, compared with a 2.6 per cent forecast.

Other benefits would include an extra percentage point fall in inflation this year and next, and rising employment opportunities. This could cut the group's 11.5 per cent jobless rate by half a point.

But the oil price slump also has a negative side for the European and world economy, the report warned.

Oil companies could suspend investment in North Sea oil and natural gas fields, relying instead on cheap imports from areas outside Europe to supply Community markets.

Increased Europe's dependence on imports would reverse a trend started after the first oil shock in 1973 when the Community imported 62 per cent of its oil needs against 50 per cent today.

It would also deter investment in energy-saving manufacturing techniques and could in the longer term jeopardise competitiveness, the report said.

Energy-saving technology has spurred industrial output by 25 per cent while keeping consumption at its 1973 level, the report showed.

On a global level, the report

forecast the oil price slump would strain the international financial system by cutting the revenue earned by oil-producing Third World countries with large foreign debts such as Mexico and Nigeria.

Kuwaiti minister warns of drop to \$10 a barrel

Commenting on the outlook for oil prices in the future, Kuwait's Oil and Industry Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah has repeated an earlier forecast that oil prices would drop to \$10 a barrel unless OPEC and non-OPEC producers reach agreement.

In an interview in Vienna published in Thursday's Kuwaiti daily Al-Watan, Sheikh Ali urged members of OPEC and non-OPEC to reach agreement on production ceiling and prices.

"I have already said that in the absence of an agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC members, prices might reach \$10 a barrel," he said.

Sheikh Ali added: "The point I would like to make clear is that we do not want oil prices to fall by a single cent. On the contrary, I think the present prices (around \$16 a barrel) are low. But it is not up to us. It is all in OPEC's hands. I believe the present price level should rise."

Libya, Iran, Algeria to cut price

In Tripoli Libya, Iran and Algeria have agreed to reduce the official price of their oil, oil industry sources and diplomats said.

There was no indication of the amount of the cuts, but oil executives expected a decision within a few days.

A communique in Thursday's newspapers following a meeting in Tripoli between the oil ministers of the three producers — regarded as the OPEC hardliners on pricing — expressed their concern over the "unstable oil market" and discussed ways to rectify weak prices.

The oil sources said Libya was producing 985,000 b/d of crude oil in the last days of January, slightly less than its OPEC quota of 990,000 b/d.

One source said that with U.S. storage tanks filled to capacity with unmarketable crude oil, Libya will have to "either stop production completely or cut the official price."

Libya depends mainly on oil, rather agreements to pay for its imports and realises that these would not be possible at its official price of \$29.10 to \$30.40 barrel, the sources said.

Sudan belittles IMF ban

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan played down Thursday the importance of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) decision to declare the country ineligible for further loans and said it was prepared to keep talking with the fund.

The IMF board took the decision in Washington earlier last week after Sudan again failed to pay over \$230 million in arrears on loans now standing at a total of more than \$800 million.

Sudanese Energy Minister Abdul Aziz Mousa told reporters the ineligibility would not affect relations with other multilateral and Arab financial institutions.

Diplomats agreed Sudan could still draw loans from the World Bank and Gulf Arab funds, while much of its aid from Western governments comes in the form of grants.

Mr. Mousa said Sudan could still negotiate with the IMF on the terms of a new economic reform package which would persuade donors to contribute towards the arrears, clearing the way for new IMF drawings.

Housing Minister Amin Makki Madani portrayed the IMF decision as a temporary freezing of relations. "If there is any change in the circumstances which led to this, Sudan will be ready to resume its dealings with the fund," he told reporters.

Mr. Madani blamed the IMF decision on what he described as the fund's intransigence, saying the Sudanese government had done its best to reach an agreement within its means.

Finance Minister Sidahmed Tayfour flew to Washington last week in a last-minute attempt to win a reprieve by offering to pay off a part of the arrears and to implement an austerity programme at home.

The Sudanese cabinet last year rejected an IMF agreement negotiated by Mr. Tayfour's predecessor on the grounds that the money supply restrictions were too tight and any further devaluation of the Sudanese pound was unacceptable.

Money supply growth, foreign exchange policy and government borrowing from the banking system remain the main obstacles in attempts to draw up an alternative deal, foreign economists said.

The government last week announced foreign currency controls, import restrictions and a new system of rationing basic commodities, apparently in an unsuccessful attempt to show the IMF it was serious about reforming the economy.

Sudan's debt service ratio — the ratio between debt repayments and earnings from exports — has risen to between 150 and 300 per cent because of heavy borrowing from abroad, four years of drought and difficulties in marketing cotton.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said that government officials acknowledged that the rollbacks would reduce revenue and that they called for self-restraint in the use of petroleum imports.

Increases for aviation fuel will stand, PTI quoted the officials as saying.

Under the revised hikes the price of a litre of petrol was reduced from 7.54 rupees (62 cents) to 7.43 rupees (61 cents). Before the increases the cost was seven rupees (58 cents).

The increase in the price of kerosene from 2.111 rupees (17 cents) to 2.34 rupees (20 cents) a litre was particularly sensitive as the fuel is widely used in rural India for cooking and lighting.

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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



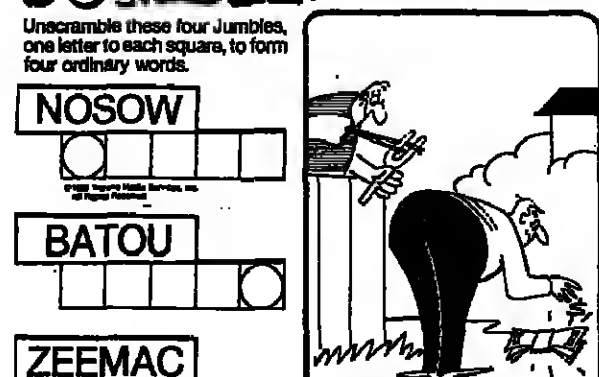
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



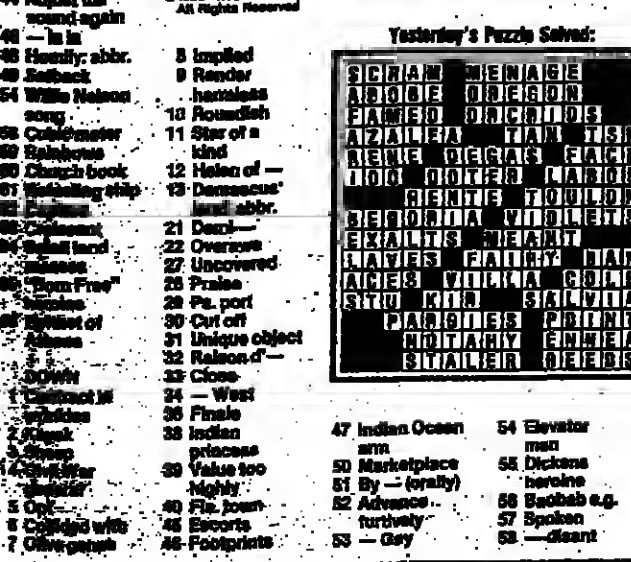
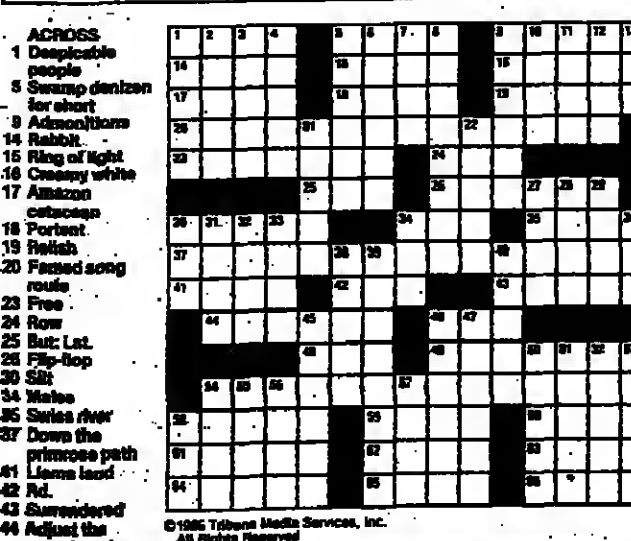
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A FOR

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AMUSE OPERA JARGON PARDON
Answer: What the tuba player's kids called him — "DOM-PA-PA"

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin



Accidents undermine confidence in British nuclear industry

LONDON (Agencies) — A recent spate of accidents has severely undermined public confidence in Britain's nuclear power industry, according to politicians and officials.

The latest accident this week at the giant Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in northern England led to angry exchanges Thursday in parliament, with both supporters and opponents of the industry criticising its safety record.

"Repeated incidents at Sellafield are making it increasingly difficult for those of us who support nuclear power to defend the industry," said Labour member Dale Campbell-Savours.

The Times newspaper said that the nuclear industry was now operating in an atmosphere of public uncertainty and fear.

"This, the latest (accident), inevitably deepens public anxiety. It cannot be buried as easily as contaminated operatives' work clothes," the newspaper said in an editorial.

This week's mishap, in which a plutonium mist escaped from a pump, releasing radioactivity into the atmosphere and contaminating some workers, was the seventh to occur at nuclear installations in the past two months.

It coincided with publication of a new medical report suggesting a link between a nuclear plant and incidence of childhood leukaemia in the surrounding area.

The report, in the latest issue of the Lancet Medical Journal, found that incidence of childhood leukaemia in the vicinity of the Dounreay nuclear site in Scotland was five times higher than the national average between 1979 and 1984.

State-owned British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), under mounting pressure to improve its safety record, is bracing itself for the publication next month of a parliamentary inquiry into its activities which could have a major impact on its future.

According to leaks to the press, the report will be highly critical of the industry and may recommend scrapping a £1.3 billion (\$1.8 billion) project to build a new reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

The industry is also awaiting the results of a two-year public inquiry into plans to build a pressurised water reactor at Sizewell on the east England coast, which has aroused bitter local opposition. A similar inquiry into plans to build a new plant at Dounreay is scheduled to begin in April.

BNFL officials say they have mounted a big public relations offensive aimed at shoring up public confidence.

"It is an ongoing campaign in which absolute victory may evade us but where the real success lies in the avoidance of defeat," Corporate Affairs Director Harold Bolter said.

An official of state-owned BNFL said Thursday night that tests showed that two workers at the world's largest nuclear reprocessing plant were contaminated by a leak of radioactive plutonium nitrate.

But Jim Coote, a health and safety manager at the accident-plagued Sellafield plant said the degree of contamination revealed by tests on nasal mucus was so small that it was only "at or about the limit of detection."

Mr. Coote said more tests would be carried out to determine if either of the two workers had plutonium in their bodies but that the results of the further tests would not be known for some weeks.

He said the level detected in the nose tests involving samples taken by swab was so small that it was "most unlikely there was a real intake of plutonium. But even if there was, the level of intake would be very small."

Meanwhile, search crews were to try again to home in on an object situated in 1,100 feet (350 metres) of water off the Florida coast and believed to be part of the right-side booster rocket. Salvage operations were hampered Thursday by choppy seas and stormy weather.

On Thursday night, a television network aired a photograph it said came from a coast guard search, showing a white, striped helmet similar to those worn by the astronauts.

Space agency officials refused comment, saying they would not provide any confirmation on whether the astronaut's remains or personal effects had been found.

In another development Thursday, Senator Jake Garn, who took part in a shuttle mission last year, said in Washington that a private fund had been established to raise money to replace Challenger.

Panel opens Challenger disaster probe

WASHINGTON (R) — The commission appointed by President Reagan to investigate the shuttle Challenger disaster was to get a classified briefing at the White House and then consider how to proceed with its inquiry.

The 12-member commission, which includes Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, and Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, has been given four months to report but officials said the investigation could take longer.

The commission began its work with a public session Thursday and heard space programme officials acknowledge they were uneasy about going ahead with the doomed Jan. 28 launch because of freezing weather at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

But the officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said they were doubtful the weather was a factor causing Challenger to explode moments after launch, killing five men and two women, astronauts.

"We are not ruling out anything at this point in time," said NASA Associate Administrator Jesse Moore, who said the space agency was forming a "devil's advocate team" to look at possible accident scenarios.

He said investigators were concentrating on the right side booster rocket but would need enhanced photographic evidence to pinpoint the exact cause of the explosion.

Space experts have closely examined a photograph showing a finger of white-hot flame leaking from the right side rocket seconds before the billion-dollar spacecraft exploded.

A leading theory is that a small leak burned through the shuttle's external fuel tank setting off nearly 500,000 gallons of hydrogen and oxygen.

Another NASA official, Arnold Aldrich, told the commission that there was no way the crew could have scuttled their mission and returned safely to earth.

"For the first two minutes of the flight, there is no practical way to abort," he said.

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Kennedy, Gorbachev hold talks

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy is believed to have raised a number of human rights issues during a Kremlin meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, according to Western diplomats.

His talks Thursday came during a day in which he praised internally-exiled dissident Andrei Sakharov in a speech to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, of which the physicist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate is still a member.

The Massachusetts Democrat, visiting Moscow privately, has avoided talking to the press. But Western diplomats said they believed human rights issues figures in the talks with Mr. Gorbachev, including the cases of several relatives of U.S. citizens denied permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Sen. Kennedy is expected to make a statement on his return to the United States Saturday.

A TASS News Agency report of the talks said opinions were exchanged on the need for better U.S.-Soviet understanding based on recognition of the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Moscow has in the past rejected Western criticism about human rights as meddling.

Sen. Kennedy's visit, postponed for a week because of the U.S. space shuttle disaster, takes place as East and West await a spy swap.

TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as telling Sen. Kennedy that his Geneva summit with President Reagan in November had created the conditions for rectifying superpower relations but the next U.S.-Soviet summit would have to produce concrete results.

Britain to push ahead with new shuttle craft

LONDON (R) — Britain has decided to push ahead with the development of a revolutionary space craft which it believes could compete with the United States into the 21st century, government officials have said.

The officials said the U.S. shuttle disaster had given new impetus to the project to build a commercial space vehicle that could both launch satellites and carry passengers.

After months of delay, the Trade Ministry Wednesday authorised a £3 million (\$4.1 million) "proof of concept" study for the new craft, known as Hotel (Horizontal Takeoff and Landing).

The craft, designed by British Aerospace (BAE) over the past two years, is conceived as a single-stage, reusable, unmanned vehicle that could take off from a conventional runway, go into orbit and land again.

"People now realise that the shuttle wasn't optimised to launch satellites. Statistically, eventually one of them had to fail," said John Humby of BAE's Space Division.

He said the Hotel concept was similar to President Reagan's "Orion Express" project, announced in his state of the union address earlier this week.

"But we have a significant lead in development thanks to a breakthrough on research into the engine achieved by Rolls Royce," he said.

The air-breathing propulsion system would use liquid hydrogen and air taken from the atmosphere, drastically reducing fuel weight and making possible a launch from a conventional runway into orbit.

At a later stage, the system might be adapted to carry passengers at five times the speed of sound, from Britain to Australia in one hour.

According to BAE, the project will cost about £500 million (\$700 million). But the end result will be a system that could launch satellites at half the cost of the U.S. shuttle by the turn of the century.

BAE officials believe that the European Space Industry will face a turning point in about two years when it will have to decide on a satellite launcher to follow the Ariane 4 rocket.

"It is unlikely that a system like the Ariane which operates by throwing away its components in flight will compete successfully with a greatly-improved, second-generation shuttle," a company spokesman said.

Wellington to reexamine Rainbow Warrior files

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand police said Friday they will reexamine files on the bombing of Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior after a French magazine said it had new evidence on last year's Paris-ordered sabotage.

Auckland Police Chief Assistant Commissioner Brian Davies told Reuters detectives would review a huge file of evidence following allegations in the weekly Paris Match that the explosives used to sink the converted trawler were carried to New Zealand on the French freighter Helene Delmas.

Mr. Davies said the magazine's allegations clashed with forensic evidence of explosive traces on the charter yacht Orvea which brought three French intelligence agents to Auckland as part of the sabotage squad.

The freighter was an early target in the police hunt after the Greenpeace ship was bombed and sunk at its Auckland dockside mooring on July 10.

"We searched the Helene Delmas and interviewed the Delmas and crew and found nothing to support this, but we can't exclude the possibility," he said.

"But we have to remember that we're really only dealing with speculation while our case to date has been built on real evidence."

Paris admitted in September that it ordered its secret service, DGSE, to sink the Rainbow Warrior before it could lead a protest against nuclear-testing in French Polynesia.

New Zealand arrested and jailed two agents for their role in the operation and issued warrants for the arrests of three other who crewed the Orvea.

Mr. Davies said the new inquiry would not reopen the case against Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart who were sentenced to 10 years in jail after admitting sabotage and manslaughter charges.

Mr. Davies said the Paris Match account made "no difference whatsoever" to the police case against the pair.

Paris Match said an unidentified businessman living in New Zealand had collected and passed the mines to the sabotage team — a role previously thought to have been taken by Prieur and Mafart.

Mr. Davies said Friday police had never ruled out the possibility that the 20,394-ton freighter had been involved in the operation.

The only real link was that the container ship was French and in the harbour at the time of the bombing, he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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GET YOUR SIGNALS STRAIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ J974	♥ 1085	♠ AKQ32	♥ 10532
♦ AQJ	♣ 10532	♦ AK86	♣ Q109743
♣ J5	♦ J986	♣ 1083	♦ Void

SOUTH

♠ 6	♥ K9874
♦ 2	♣ AK7542

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	1♥	2NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣.

That defense is the most difficult part of bridge has often been stressed in this column. Let us think that East-West were a pair of tyros, let us hasten to assure you that they had represented their country in world championship play.

There is something inelegant about allowing the opponents to play in a game contract when your side can claim a slam in another suit. Perhaps West would have

troops from eight NATO states to train in Norway.

CESTEAU, Belgium (AP) — About 20,000 troops from eight NATO nations are to participate in a month-long training exercise in northern Norway starting next week, NATO said Friday.

The exercise, code named "Anchor Express," is designed to train Norwegian forces, allied reinforcements and NATO's multinational mobile strike force under winter conditions.

The manoeuvres, to be combined with a Norwegian national army exercise called "Flotex," will be held in the Nordland and Troms areas of northern Norway from Feb. 15 to March 18.

The training will be directed by British Gen. Sir Geoffrey Howlett, newly appointed chief commander of allied forces in northern Europe; Norwegian Lt. Gen. Ulf Berg, commander of allied forces in northern Norway; and Canadian Maj. Gen. Andrew Christie, commander of allied Command Europe's mobile strike force, known officially as the Ace Mobile Force.

In announcing the manoeuvres, NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe said the training would "improve the combat effectiveness of all participating forces" and "demonstrate NATO solidarity and risk-sharing."

The participating troops are from Canada, West Germany, Italy, Norway, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Britain and the United States.

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New evidence leads to release of convicted 'baby killer'

DARWIN (R) — Lindy Chamberlain, jailed for life for the killing of her baby daughter, was set free Friday night after a week of stunning new developments in Australia's most sensational criminal case.

Chamberlain, 37, left prison here after authorities in the country's Northern Territory announced a new probe into the case.

Chamberlain eluded newsmen and went into hiding but her husband Michael, a Seventh Day Adventist preacher, said in a brief statement he was thrilled and delighted.

Chamberlain's release 5½ years after her daughter Azaria went missing follows this week's discovery of a baby's tattered jacket near Ayers Rock where she claimed the child was taken by a dingo (wild dog).

Northern Territory Attorney-General Marshall Perron said Chamberlain's identification in jail that the jacket was Azaria's was a crucial factor in her release.

But he told news men the rel-

1 dies as wall collapses on Pope's route

TRICHUR, India (R) — One person was killed and 18 were injured when a wall collapsed on the road Pope John Paul took to a prayer service here Friday.

Police told Reuters the accident happened just 10 minutes before the papal motorcade passed by taking the Pope to a ceremony attended by 300,000 people two kilometres away.

The Press Trust of India news agency said a compound wall gave way as the crowd scrambled over it to escape a charging bull. A police spokesman could not confirm this.

It was the first death reported among the crowds, some up to one million strong, which have greeted the Pope on his 10-day tour of India.

The dead person, a 52-year-old woman, was not named.

The accident did not disrupt the Pope's triumphant entry into Kerala state, the heartland of Indian Catholicism.

He arrived on the seventh day of his hectic tour, travelling from the former Portuguese territory of Goa to Kerala which has four million Catholics, about 35 per cent of those in India.

The Pontiff blessed 152 newly-wed couples aged from 18 to 25 in Trichur on a dusty field framed by tall coconut palms.

The service was celebrated near the area where St. Thomas the Apostle is said to have landed on the shores of India in 52 A.D.

In Cochin, hundreds of thousands of people were gathered for an afternoon at Kerala state's largest industrial complex.

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Press reports plot to kill Museveni

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — A member of the Ugandan military government ousted by Yoweri Museveni's guerrillas last week ordered a helicopter gunship to bombard a building in Kampala on Jan. 29 and bomb the steps where Mr. Museveni was being sworn in as president.

The pilot said he took off from the northern town of Gulu, where Gen. Okello is believed to be organising resistance to Mr. Museveni, then flew close to Kampala before turning back, the Standard said. It said he landed the helicopter at Nakasongola, about 115 kilometres north of Kampala, and was soon captured by the NRA.

Since capturing Kampala on Jan. 25, the NRA has taken control of southern Uganda and is pursuing several thousand soldiers of the ousted military junta who fled to their tribal homelands in the north.

In a radio broadcast to mark the fifth anniversary of the founding of the NRA guerrilla group, Mr. Museveni said the soldiers were retreating from an NRA advance from the south when they committed the murders.

The NRA took the eastern town of Mbale on Sunday.

Reports reaching Kampala from the battlefield said the NRA was now marching on Soroti in the east and was also bombarding Gulu, the northern home base of Gen. Tito Okello.

Colombo rejects Tamil request on ethnic solution

COLOMBO (R) — A demand by Tamils that Sri Lanka's north and east be merged into one region was the biggest obstacle in the search for a solution to the country's ethnic conflict, a government minister said Friday.

The main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), has asked for a merger of northern and eastern provinces saying they are the traditional homeland of the minority community.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a news conference the government was "not prepared to grant the demands for a separate state or the merger of the provinces."

Mr. Athulathmudali said any solution to the conflict between majority Sinhalese and Tamils had to be worked out on the basis of a united Sri Lanka.

He reiterated that the government's aim was to find a political solution while tackling guerrillas on the military front.

"We are quite prepared to continue discussions formally or informally because we do not wish to accept failure in the peace process," Mr. Athulathmudali said.

"Despite everything, I think the initiative (for discussions) could come from India because they are the people who can talk to both sides directly."

Knife-wielding airline passenger surrenders

DALLAS (R) — A knife-wielding passenger held 232 people hostage aboard an airliner on the ground here but was persuaded to release them after two hours by police, an airline spokesman said. None of the 221 passengers and 11 crew members on board the Delta Air Lines Tristar was injured in the incident. The passenger had threatened to injure a male flight attendant unless certain demands were met, a Delta spokesman said. The demands were not known. Delta Spokesman Bill Jackson said the passenger, identified as Ralph Hughes of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, accused the flight attendant of the plane taxiing into Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The hijacker demanded to talk with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials, Jackson said, but his exact demands were not known. An FBI spokesman said authorities convinced the man to free all the passengers and FBI agents arrested Hughes.

West Berlin prepares for major spy swap

WEST BERLIN (R) — Preparations for a major East-West spy swap intensified in West Berlin Friday amid diplomatic speculation that U.S. and Soviet authorities could turn the handover into a dramatic media operation.

A U.S. official in charge of security in West Berlin Friday visited the Glienicke Bridge, scene of past secret handovers, and walked to its central line marking West Berlin from East Germany.

He and three other U.S. officials stood for about five minutes inspecting the frozen havel waterway below and its West Berlin bank.

Western allied sources said they were also viewing other crossings to West Berlin from surrounding Communist territory.

The inspection came as dozens of journalists and television crews gathered here with mobile homes and telephone lines.

Officials of the U.S. mission, which still holds sovereign powers in West Berlin under post-World War II occupation agreements, refused to confirm or deny press reports that the swap, involving jailed Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky, would take place on the bridge on Tuesday.

Western allied sources said that if the exchange took place here it would almost certainly be controlled by U.S. security forces. West Berlin police would play only a back-up role.

West Berlin is still divided formally into the British, U.S. and French sectors allotted to the victorious powers in 1945, though a civilian democratically-elected West Berlin government conducts everyday administration.

One allied official, reflecting the view of many diplomats here, said he believed the swap could be held in the glare of publicity as a demonstration of East-West cooperation.

"It seems to me both sides want publicity from this. The fact that it was leaked in the first place suggests there are those who don't want it carried out in the dead of night, as it's happened before," one allied diplomat said.

Some officials, though, argued that the security problems posed by a media spectacle could be too great.

News of the swap first broke in a report by the Bild newspaper quoting Soviet sources. The East German authorities took the unusual step of confirming the swap, suggesting publicity interest on the Eastern side.

French police make show of force after bombings

PARIS (R) — French police have mounted a major show of force after a series of bombings in an attempt to calm the public and deter a repeat of attacks.

More than 2,500 extra police are patrolling the French capital, strengthening a force already placed on emergency alert in response to three bomb attacks earlier this week.

"France is under attack and it will defend itself," Interior Minister Pierre Joxe said Thursday after visiting a shop where nine people were injured in a bomb attack on Wednesday night.

The bombing, the third at a crowded public place within 48 hours, brought to 21 the total number of people hurt. A fourth bomb was found and defused on top of the Eiffel Tower on Monday.

Paris Thursday reverberated to the sound of sirens as police cars and fire trucks raced to some 100 false alarms.

Thousands were evacuated from public buildings, including the Paris Opera House, a Latin quarter underground station and the office of the newspaper France Soir. Police destroyed a suspicious package with a controlled explosion but no bombs were found.

Friday is the start of school holidays, one of the busiest periods for travel, and train stations, airports and other public places were thronged with police carrying out spot identity checks and body searches.

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Bad cheques are most common crime in Sharjah

ABU DHABI (R) — Bad cheques are the most common crime in the Emirate of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), local newspapers have reported. They quoted Captain Rashid Alai of Sharjah Police as having told a news conference 70 per cent of complaints lodged with Sharjah Police concerned cheques without funds.

"Never a day passes without someone complaining to us about a bad cheque," he said. He blamed the economic situation, lack of prosecution of offenders and liberal banking practices. In many cases, the cheques were post-dated and the culprit had time to leave the country, he said.

Swiss to host next Pen Congress

LUGANO, Switzerland (R) — The lakeside town of Lugano will play host to next year's Pen Congress of the world's leading poets, authors and playwrights, a spokesman for the local Author's Federation has said. The theme of the meeting, to be held early next year, will be the literature of those living near national borders. Events will take place here and in nearby Ascona and Engadine. Around 700 leading writers attended the last congress, held in New York in January.

Youth decapitates victim in ritual murder

CARACAS (R) — A youth of Chinese origin has admitted decapitating a 75-year old man and placing parts of his body on a silver platter in a supposed Chinese ritual earlier this week, police has said. Cen Yan Lin, 27, entered the old man's room above a Chinese restaurant in east Caracas, decapitated him, and placed the head and fingers of his left hand on a silver platter bordered by chopsticks. He was about to add the fingers of the right hand when the victim's son arrived and called the police. The youth later told reporters through an interpreter that he acted because of an ornamental picture in the restaurant where he worked, showing a tiger and a dragon. According to his cult, which police were unable to identify, the two animals must be separated by sacrificing the picture's owner.

Judge calls 'ugly girl' to rape victim

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A judge has asked not to be assigned rape cases because of an uproar over his calling an alleged victim, "the ugliest girl I have ever seen" and his refusal to convict her alleged attacker of rape. Judge Bernard Avellino provoked a storm when the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper last week reported he found Vincent Bove guilty of assault but not of rape, telling the defendant: "This was an unattractive girl and you are a good-looking fellow. You did something to her which was stupid." The paper said Avellino, without telling the prosecutor, reduced the sentence he had given Bove in open court. The original sentence was three to 24 months in prison, but the judge changed it to time Bove had already served — 30 days. When interviewed by the paper about his change of mind in the 1984 case, Avellino said the evidence of rape was inconclusive and the victim's recall was faulty.

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